SE The SOUTHEAST EXAMINER

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Sign at Sunnyside Environmental School expresses feelings of many parents and students. Photo by Sandy Miller.

SE Portland Schools Facing Changes Amid Districtwide Resizing

By Sandy Miller

"Slow down, School Board!" urged a handmade sign decorated with a bulbous banana slug at a bike bus rally at Sunnyside Environmental School on October 16. That sentiment is shared by many parents of SE elementary- and middle-school students. Portland Public Schools (PPS) has announced that as many as 14 schools in the city may be closed as of the 2027-28 school year.

One of three possible scenarios will be selected by the School Board at its December meeting. Scenario A would close 14 elementary schools; Scenario B would shutter 11; and Scenario C would preserve the status quo while further research is conducted.

Among the schools on the chopping block in SE are Creston and Buckman. Seven of the 11 PPS elementary schools now serving grades K-8 will change to K-5 only. Among these are Laurelhurst and Sunnyside Environmental.

Hanna Neuschwander, a parent with seventh- and third-grade daughters at Sunnyside, worked with the Parent Teacher Student Association (pTSA) to circulate a petition to the PPS School Board. At press time, their efforts had gathered over 2,000 signatures from parents, students, alumni, teachers and neighbors.

The longstanding and popular environmental program at Sunnyside, where students spend time outdoors cultivating plants and where nature is a core part of the curriculum, will be eliminated. Montreal ("Monty"), a seventh grader who has attended Sunnyside since kindergarten, remembers many outstanding field trips, such as one to Wapato (Sauvie) Farm, where she helped harvest corn, turn it into masa and make tortillas featuring native plant fillings. Eighth graders at Sunnyside take a weeklong field trip to Catalina Island every year. This is just one learning experience Monty will be sorry to miss if she must leave Sunnyside next year. "The kids are really sad," she says, "especially the ones who have been here so long."

The PPS environmental program, started in 1994, found a home at Sunnyside in 2004. In addition to field trips, students spend the equivalent of a whole day every week working and mentoring younger kids in the school garden and earning service credit by volunteering with local groups and parks to improve the environment.

Jeremy Thomas has taught at Sunnyside for 18 years. "Stripping the middle grades out of Sunnyside is taking away the heart of the environmental focus cur-

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Jade District Residents Consider Future of Metro-Owned Property as Housing Plans Make Headway

By Madeleine Voth

For nearly a decade, a piece of land near SE 89th Ave. and SE 90th Pl. has been vacant.

Residents in Portland's Jade District have been pushing for a neighborhood park as Metro prepares to move forward with housing development on the property. With funding challenges complicating the prospect of a park, residents are working to keep the possibility alive.

Metro purchased the 1.47-acre property at 2815 SE 90th Pl. in fall 2025 using state-allocated funds for future affordable housing and commercial development ahead of planned roadway and transit improvements along the 82nd Ave. corridor.

After purchasing the property, Metro received a letter from neighbors asking the agency to consider a public park instead. Because its Transit-Oriented Development program does not cover public park development and maintenance, Metro agreed to postpone the developer-selection process for a year while advocates explore alternatives, including finding a buyer for the site. "If no buyer is identified," Metro spokesperson Kelsey Kuhnhausen said, Metro will gather community feedback, seek housing proposals that reflect residents' priorities and select a developer to meet the community's needs.

Kristopher Mahdak, a Portland resident and Powellhurst-Gilbert Neighborhood Association Board member said the property is the neighborhood's largest contiguous undeveloped lot and the only suitable site for a park of its size. Few public gathering spaces exist nearby, and about two-thirds of neighborhood streets lack sidewalks, making it difficult for residents to safely walk to existing parks.

A March 9 briefing memo from Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) identified the area as underserved, noting that nearby parks in Lents, Berrydale and Essex are beyond the bureau's target distance that ensures every resident lives within a half-mile of a developed park or natural green space.

The site was identified as a potential park location as early as 2018, when the US Environmental Protection Agency's Greening the Jade initiative highlighted it as a candidate for new green space. In March 2026, residents and community organizations petitioned city officials to pursue green space there.

Mahdak said that residents support affordable housing but believe it can be built elsewhere in the neighborhood without sacrificing the potential park site. However, Metro's Transit-Oriented Develop-

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Aladdin Theater Celebrates Upcoming 100-Year Anniversary With Mural

By Kaya Goddard, Franklin High School's *The Franklin Post*

A new mural celebrates the Aladdin Theater's 100-year anniversary, which will take place in December 2027. The mural features a colorful array of instruments and references to the theater, stretching across its exterior wall to the left of the main entrance. This mural was created through a partnership of the Aladdin Theater, True West, the Portland Street Art Alliance (PSAA), Classic Pianos—a piano store that shares the same building—and the City of Portland. Just one year shy of the anniversary, the art piece marks an important milestone for the theater's legacy, and for Portland's music scene as a whole.

The Aladdin Theater resides within SE Portland's Brooklyn neighborhood at 3017 SE Milwaukie Ave., where it has been a popular music and performance venue since opening in 1927. From 1927 to 1934, the theater followed the trends of the '20s, with a variety of vaudeville performances and comedy acts.

The theater was originally called Geller's Theater, then renamed in 1934 to Aladdin Theater. After it was renamed and with the birth of film, the theater's focus shifted to family-friendly cinema, then again to adult movies in the '70s and into the '80s. Ultimately, after being purchased by Paul Shuback and Maurice Unis in 1991, the theater once again became a space for live music and stand-up comedy. The Unis family remains the landlord of the building today, with True West—a leading independent concert production company in Portland—running the theater. With promotion from True West, artists like The Black Keys and Mumford & Sons took to the stage throughout the 2000s and

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503.254.7550 | southeastexaminer.com

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Rs Representatively Speaking

By State Representative
Rob Nosse

Part of my job is reading and replying to emails from constituents on a wide swath of issues, ranging from supporting community solar, stopping ICE raids, opposing data centers and so much more. Lately these emails are mostly about the Portland Public Schools (PPS) "right-sizing" process. There are several variations of that email from: slow this down, keep my school or program open, fund schools better or stop the whole thing outright.

Most of you know the PPS school board is vetting two proposals and is hoping to decide what to do by December. There are two approaches. Under both the A and B proposals, the area I represent includes the closure of Buckman and Creston elementary schools and Sellwood Middle School. The whole list of closures for Scenario A includes Beach, Buckman, Creston, Irvington, James John Lewis, Maplewood, Marysville, Peninsula, Rose City Park, Sabin, Sellwood Middle School, Stephenson and Woodmere. The MLC (9–12) high school program would also close.

Then there are program changes. Spanish immersion programs that are all over the city would consolidate. In SE Portland, Atkinson's Spanish immersion would move to Lents.

The Creston Deaf and Hard of Hearing program, which is a resource for the whole region, would be transferred to Glencoe. Odyssey moves to the MLC site.

There are middle school changes too. Laurelhurst ceases to be a K–8 and their middle school grades would be transferred to Mt. Tabor. The Sunnyside Environmental K–8 would also become a K-5 and likely lose the environmental focus with their middle school grades being transferred to Hosford.

Several events are driving the superintendent to propose these options. First is that PPS faces a $65 million shortfall for next year. Yes, PPS will have to make more cuts to their budget in the coming year. Please know I am committed to trying to fund a school budget that would prevent those cuts from being needed. Easier said than done, but along with a longer school year, that is among my top priorities.

The other challenge is declining enrollment. PPS has already seen a drop of roughly 6,000-6,700 students since the 2018–2019 school year, bringing total enrollment down to roughly 42,622 students for 2025–26. According to forecasts from the Portland State University Population Research Center, PPS is projected to lose an additional 3,400-5,200 students over the coming decade, with some long-term forecasts pointing to a total decline of about 14 percent to roughly 36,763 students by 2035–36. It is driven by falling local birth rates, high housing costs and slower rates of family in-migration. This is happening in other school districts around the state as well.

I hate that we find ourselves and our school district here. It is not any fun trying to figure this out and it is not what anyone wants to do. I am very mindful of my role in all this, and I am also mindful that the state's budget challenges are pretty significant and it is making me reluctant to promise to do better when so many other vital programs like rental assistance, support for addiction treatment and health care in general, roads and bridges and wildfire mitigation are struggling for the financial support they need. Higher education is underfunded in this state too.

I don't have easy answers for the cost of housing, the job market, the addiction that plays out in our streets. Oregon is also saddled with a tax structure that is terrible but can only be fixed by ballot measure with any fix confronting a tax-weary electorate who feel overtaxed or underwhelmed by how their government is deploying the resources they have been given to address problems. I don't have easy answers for population decline either. Hopefully, by the time many of you read this, the US Congress is headed in a different direction. That will at least be a start.

In one of the emails I received, the PPS Superintendent, Kimberly Armstrong, wrote back and included this in her reply.

"I agree that schools are the heart of our communities. The relationships, traditions and sense of belonging you describe matter deeply. Closing a school carries real consequences, and we must take those seriously. But we must also ask: What is the alternative, and what would it mean for students? PPS is a public school system built over more than a century. It grew to serve more than 80,000 students across more than 100 school buildings. Today, we serve approximately 42,000 students. Who is harmed when a school remains open but lacks consistent access to counselors, librarians, enrichment and student support? Keeping a building open does not, by itself, preserve the educational experience children deserve. Previous generations of district leaders faced difficult closure decisions, community opposition and requests to stop and reconsider. Those decisions helped shape the system we have today. Our responsibility is to examine what our students need now and sustain it for the future.

"Proposals deserve examination and feedback, and any alternative must show how we will provide adequate staffing, address declining enrollment and operate within our resources. Maintaining the current footprint with a pause also has consequences for children. I welcome ideas that meet those responsibilities while preserving neighborhood connections. Our shared goal must be a stable public school system where every child receives the support they need."

I look forward to helping and trying to mitigate all this as best as I can.

Future Connect Marks 15 Years of Turning College Access Into College Completion

By James Hill

Oregon Secretary of State Tobias Read (sporting a red tie) with Future Connect students and staff. Photo by PCC.

At Portland Community College's (PCC) Southeast Campus, enrollment routinely eclipses 11,000 annually with 48 different languages spoken on campus. And many are first-generation and low-income students who are looking for a pathway to a degree and great paying job.

For these students, admission is often only the first hurdle. Finding the money, guidance and sense of belonging needed to graduate and transfer can be even harder.

Against that backdrop, PCC and the PCC Foundation marked the 15th anniversary of Future Connect, a nationally recognized program designed to turn college access into college completion.

Since its first cohort entered PCC during the 2011-12 academic year, Future Connect has served nearly 5,000 students. The program combines scholarships with personalized advising, career guidance and support from a dedicated college success coach. Students also receive job and internship resources and help navigating academic, financial and personal barriers.

"Future Connect demonstrates what is possible when a college and its community commit not only to opening the door to higher education, but also to helping students thrive once they walk through it," said Dr. Katy Ho, interim president of PCC. "For 15 years, the program has combined financial support with personalized coaching, trusted relationships and a strong sense of belonging for thousands of first-generation and low-income students. Its success now shapes how PCC supports new students across the college."

Future Connect cohorts reflect communities that have historically faced some of the greatest barriers to higher education: 75 percent of students come from low-income households, 85 percent are the first in their families to attend college and 87 percent are students of color. In total, the PCC Foundation has secured more than $24 million in gifts and grants (from private and public partners) for Future Connect with $8 million supporting scholarships.

"15 years of serving students is something the community can truly be proud of," said Josh Laurie, dean of PCC's College Success Programs. "In that time, we have invested and reinvested in how students access opportunity through education. When we started the program 15 years ago, people said it might not stick and it might just be a flashy object that fades. But we believed in what we were building and so did the community."

In 2011, Future Connect began with more than 100 students and support from the City of Portland and PCC Foundation donors. It later expanded through partnerships with Beaverton and Hillsboro and now welcomes more than 300 new students each year.

Its influence has extended beyond PCC. In 2015, then-Gov. Kate Brown ceremonially signed House Bill 3063, the "Aspirations to College" law based on Future Connect. The law funded similar programs at Oregon community colleges, and Future Connect received a $1.3 million state grant in 2016.

A 2017 Education Northwest evaluation found that Future Connect improved first-year grade-point averages and credits earned, persistence into the second year and three-year completion and transfer rates. In December 2021, the federal What Works Clearinghouse found promising evidence of effectiveness in its review of the evaluation.

The transfer component is key. According to Columbia University, a national research report shows that about 80 percent of entering community college students aspire to earn a bachelor's degree, yet only 33 percent transfer to a four-year institution and 16 percent earn a bachelor's degree within six years. For students from low-income households, the completion rate is 11 percent.

Future Connect scholars can continue receiving assistance through available scholarships at Portland State University, Lewis & Clark College, Pacific and Linfield Universities and any Oregon university of their choice. Known as Future Connect's Next Step Scholarships, qualifying PCC graduates earn scholarships that pay for tuition and other costs. On average, Next Step scholars receive between $35,000 to $68,000 annually through institutional and merit-based scholarships and grants.

The program also provided the foundation for PCC's First-Year Experience, which brings Future Connect-style wraparound support to more new students. PCC piloted the initiative in fall 2024 with a $1 million gift from Brigid Flanigan, founder and principal of Tenfold Senior Living, and has expanded to serve 5,000 students a year.

"Future Connect shows what can happen when a community gets behind a strong idea," said Christina Kline, executive director of the PCC Foundation. "We have helped connect individuals, businesses, foundations and public partners with opportunities to invest in the program as it has expanded into new communities, reached more students, and shaped new approaches to student success at PCC. That sustained commitment reflects tremendous confidence in Future Connect and, most importantly, in its students."

Longtime supporters include Michael and Alice Powell, founders of Powell's Books. The couple supported a Future Connect leadership program; Michael served on the PCC Foundation Board, and both were honorary chairs of the Foundation's inaugural comprehensive fundraising campaign. "Future Connect has meant so much to us because we've seen what can happen when students are given the opportunity and encouragement to pursue their goals," Michael said. "To have been part of this program from the beginning and watch it grow over 15 years has been incredibly meaningful. We're proud to have played a part in helping thousands of students continue their education and build the lives they envision for themselves," added Alice.

Laurie said the anniversary demonstrates the durability of a program that some initially questioned. "It is quite simply a way to envision a caring approach within a large institution; it takes time, a ton of energy and ultimately a lot of trust," he said. "We are so grateful to have all three of those still going strong after all these years."

Bw Business Walkabout

Babkush Fills Niche With Delicious Jewish Baked Goods

By Ellen Spitaleri

Zicra Lukin, owner of Babkush, offers an assortment of authentic Jewish pastries, including amaretti cookies, rugelach and babka slices. Photo by Tamar Hammer.

Although Portland is known as a foodie paradise, Zicra Lukin found something lacking in the landscape, so she opened Babkush, a Jewish bakery at 935 SE Hawthorne Blvd. For her, however, Babkush is more than just a bakery offering delicious sweets, it is also a place that celebrates Jewish culture and the Jewish calendar.

Lukin noted that she moved into the space in April 2025 and opened the retail space at the beginning of 2026. "We also do wholesale, catering and farmers markets. It's a great central location, and we've loved getting to know our neighbors," Lukin said.

As for the name Babkush, it is simply a clever take on the word babka, a popular baked item.

Lukin noted that her parents owned a Jewish newspaper in Boston, so running a Jewish business was not a radical idea to her. "While many of the items we make are familiar to me from my childhood, they did not necessarily make regular appearances in our home," she said.

Even though the baked goods offered at Babkush are inspired by baking traditions from Jewish communities around the world, "the wonderful thing about food is that it is infinitely adaptable as it migrates from one place to another, giving rise to new variations on a theme," she said.

She further noted that babka can be looked upon as a template that can be filled with whatever you like. "We love folding in jams made from fruit when it's at its seasonal peak in Oregon. Right now, we're winding down a babka with plum-ginger jam and almond frangipane," Lukin said.

In addition to taking seasonality into account, she builds Babkush's menu around the Jewish holidays. "We look to global Jewish recipes for inspiration and then work with local ingredients so that the treats are rooted in the place where they are made; in addition to baking with seasonal ingredients, we also try to source from local producers," Lukin said.

For example, hazelnuts come from Freddy's Guys; chocolate, cocoa powder and vanilla come from Cloudforest, which is just around the corner; and the saffron used in Rosh Hashanah challah was grown in Washington State.

So exactly what is a babka? It is made with a yeasted dough enriched with butter and eggs, which is wrapped around various fillings, creating a swirled effect when you slice into it.

At Babkush, customers can always find chocolate, chocolate-halva and cinnamon-walnut babkas; there are seasonal variations as well, including winter babka, with white chocolate, prunes, hazelnuts and warm spices.

Lukin noted that the history of Jewish babka is distinct from other babkas, but also in conversation with them. "They all originate in Eastern Europe; Jewish babka likely began as a way to use leftover challah dough to create something sweet," she said. Adding that in that case, "it would have been dairy-free, since challah is served for Shabbat dinner, which historically most likely would have contained meat. According to Jewish dietary laws milk and meat can't be served together."

When Jewish immigrants came to the US and opened bakeries, babka was a staple item. Like many recipes originating in leaner times, it evolved into something more luxurious, Lukin noted. "While we definitely embrace a sumptuous babka, we also try to maintain the throughline, even if only remembering the origin story," Lukin added.

Although chocolate babka is a customer favorite, Babkush also offers other sweet treats, including two different styles of rugelach: one made with yeasted dough with a chocolate filling, soaked in simple syrup; and the other, made with a cream cheese pastry dough wrapped around walnuts and raisins. "People often say they look like mini croissants," Lukin said.

She added that gluten-free amaretti cookies are also available in a variety of flavors, including hazelnut-chocolate, vanilla-matcha and halva-date.

Babkush offers challah on Fridays, along with special treats for the holidays, such as hamantaschen and b'ebe b'tamer for Purim and an almond-orange cake for Passover.

Lukin noted that for her, "this is a moment in American Judaism when many Jews are reexamining their relationship to mainstream Jewish institutional culture. At Babkush, we want to be a part of that conversation, and to that aim we intentionally serve treats from the baking traditions of Jewish communities from around the world."

She added that she is doing this in part to "broaden the concept of Jewish food" and also to prompt people to think about how Jews have been part of the fabric of communities globally for thousands of years.

"In those places our faith, customs and food have evolved in conversation with our neighbors around us. Babkush strives to do the same in Portland; we are rooted here, stand in community here and are excited to evolve here," Lukin said.

She added that she donates a portion of Babkush's sales to PDX Pigeon Mutual Aid, which directly supports a group of families in Gaza, helping to ensure they have funds for food, medicine and shelter.

Babkush
935 SE Hawthorne Blvd.
Open Tuesday-Friday and Sunday, 10 am-4 pm
babkush.com

How to Avoid Food Waste Over the Holidays

By Arashi Young

Holiday spread. Photo by gtrrestaurant on Pixabay.

The holidays can be a joyous time to bring people together, share memories and break bread over a large holiday feast. But big dinners can have big environmental and financial impacts when uneaten food gets thrown away.

The US Environmental Protection Agency estimates that food takes up more than 20 percent of space in landfills. Food releases methane gas as it decomposes, contributing to climate change. Food waste costs money too. Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality estimates that each household in the state loses $1,600 a year in wasted food.

With a little bit of planning for your holiday meal, you can make sure your guests are stuffed but your trash is not.

Preparing for dinner

Aim to feed your guests well without leaving you with a fridge full of leftovers. That means figuring out the right portions for each guest. Check out this party planning portion calculator for your next meal: savethefood.com/guestimator. The calculator will adjust for heavier or lighter eaters and multiple side dishes and desserts.

Look in your fridge and pantry first to make sure you don't already have needed ingredients. It's helpful to label foods so you now what should be eaten first. When grocery shopping, make a list and stick to it.

After the feast

The best way to avoid a fridge full of leftovers is to send the meal home with your guests. Ask them to bring to-go boxes to dinner, loan them yours or repurpose cleaned salsa or yogurt containers that they can later recycle. Many secondhand stores have inexpensive food storage containers, great for giving away after a big meal.

If you still have leftovers, make use of your freezer; meats, soups, cooked vegetables, breads and pastries freeze very well. Foods will stay fresher for longer in airtight containers. If you are tired of eating the same meal for days on end, repurpose the leftovers into new meals with these creative ways.

Turkey

Substitute turkey wherever you would use chicken such as enchilada filling, nachos, chili or barbecue sandwiches.

Turkey noodle soup is a post-holiday tradition for many. Boil the carcass until the meat

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Community News

Leaf Day is Coming

Photo by PBOT.

In November and December each year, Portland Bureau of Transportation's (PBOT) Leaf Day service helps make streets cleaner and safer, keep storm drains clear and keep intersections from flooding. Leaf Day pick up is free for residents in Leaf Zones. There is no need to opt in or out.

Everyone in a Leaf Zone should have received a brochure in the mail by mid-October with directions on finding pick up date(s). In SE Portland, Leaf Day Pickup 1 starts as early as Thursday, November 12 and Leaf Day Pickup 2 is complete by Saturday, December 19. Many neighborhoods are broken into multiple Leaf Zones with different pickup dates. Double-check pickup dates with your exact address. There are three areas that will have only one Leaf Day Pickup. Regardless of whether you live in an area that has one or two pickups, make sure to check the schedule for your address at portland.gov/transportation/maintenance/leafday so that you don't miss it.

Additionally, PBOT sends out weekly reminders of Leaf Day. Opt in to receive reminders via email or text.

One day before your Leaf Day, rake loose leaves you want picked up into the street. Gather only loose tree leaves. Pine and fir needles from evergreen street trees are ok. Yard debris should be placed in the green compost bin, not in the street. This includes twigs, branches, pinecones, grass clippings and other yard debris.

Keep one foot of space between your pile and the curb for storm runoff and to make it easier for PBOT's sweepers. Also allow plenty of clearance between your pile and any vehicle left parked on the street.

Make sure to trim any low-hanging tree limbs over the street so equipment can get as close to the curb as possible and provide the best clean. Trees should be trimmed to allow for 11 feet of clearance.

Move vehicles and other objects off the street. Leaf Zones are small enough that people should never have to travel more than a quarter mile to park a vehicle outside the boundaries of a zone. Whenever possible, allow plenty of clearance between your pile and anything left parked on the street.

Check in with your neighbors so everyone remembers to move their vehicles off the street on Leaf Day. People may be working from home or have other reasons their vehicles are parked on the street for extended times. The fewer obstacles on the street, the better job crews can do of cleaning the street.

What happens to all those leaves that are picked up? They're hauled to PBOT's Sunderland Yard for composting. That compost is available for purchase at the Buy Compost page, portland.gov/transportation/maintenance/buy-compost-and-gravel.

Property Taxes Due November 16

Multnomah County began mailing roughly 300,000 property tax statements and value notices mid-October. Property owners should receive their statements by Sunday, November 1.

Property tax payments are due Monday, November 16 (as the statutory November 15 deadline falls on a Sunday). Oregon state law establishes the deadline for property tax payments and mandates interest charges on delinquent accounts. Multnomah County does not have the legal authority to extend the payment deadline or waive interest on late payments.

Taxpayers can lower their total obligation by taking advantage of full or partial payment discounts. 2026 property taxes paid in full by November 16 and payments postmarked by that date receive a three percent discount. For 2026 property tax payments that are two-thirds of the amount due, a two percent discount will apply to payments received or postmarked by November 16.

Flexible payment options are also available through installment plans for those managing payments over time. Taxes may be paid, without discount, in three equal installments due November 16, 2026, February 16, 2027 and May 17, 2027.

There are multiple ways property taxes can be paid. Online, visit proptax.multco.us to view options, including direct bank transfer (electronic check), which is the most secure and convenient method. Convenience fees apply.

Call 833.428.8101 to pay by phone using the automated Tyler Payments system, accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Payment options include electronic check, debit card or credit card. Convenience fees apply.

Another option is to use the secure outdoor drop box at the Multnomah Building, 501 SE Hawthorne Blvd. Checks (no cash) is the only payment option allowed.

To pay in person, visit the Multnomah County Division of Assessment, Recording and Taxation Office located on the first floor of the Multnomah Building. The office is open Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-4:30 pm. During peak payment weeks wait times may be longer than usual.

Payments can also be mailed to PO Box 2716, Portland, OR 97208-2716. Payments must be postmarked by November 16 to be considered timely. The county recommends mailing payments early to prevent postmarking delays at the post office.

County staff process payment in the order received. All Multnomah County offices will be closed Wednesday, November 11 in observance of Veterans Day.

Each property tax envelope includes an insert with a QR code directing taxpayers to the county's online tax statement guide. The guide explains payment methods, statement terminology and assessment details. Translated guides are available in six languages at multco.us/taxstatement.

If the statement you received is yellow, that indicates that another party (such as a mortgage lender or the Oregon Department of Revenue) has requested the bill. Taxpayers receiving yellow statements should check with that party before paying the bill themselves.

Property taxes support local taxing districts across Multnomah County. Tax rates fluctuate annually based on voter-approved bonds and levies, or when existing bonds or levies expire. Taxing districts encompass school districts as well as local government agencies, including cities, Metro, TriMet, the Port of Portland and local fire, water and special assessment districts.

RecycleOn Accepts Non-Curbside Recyclable Materials

Some materials are difficult for regular recycling facilities to sort. It's for that reason that items like shredded paper, plastic lids, plastic bags and other stretchy plastics are not allowed in home recycling bins. For example, plastic bags can jam recycling facility machines, shredded paper can be too small for machines to sort and lids and package handles are flat like paper, confusing sorting equipment.

Now, however, there is a way to recycle those materials with six new RecycleOn locations around Portland where they can be dropped off at no charge. These locations, others throughout the state and more in the works, will provide over 140 sites to help people in Oregon recycle correctly by the end of 2027.

SE Portland's Frog & Toad Hauling at 2711 SE Milwaukie Ave. (just south of the railroad tracks on SE 11th Ave.) has RecycleOn collection containers. They accept dropoffs of materials by appointment for donation and recycling and are open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 9 am-5 pm.

Shredded paper should be placed in a paper bag, not a plastic bag. Then roll or staple the top of the bag shut before dropping it off. Wet or moldy shredded paper cannot be accepted.

Plastic bags and stretchy plastics include grocery bags, produce bags, bread bags, bubble wrap, air pillows and the stretchy plastic wrapped around toilet paper or paper towel packs. If it stretches when you press your finger into it, RecycleOn centers can recycle it. If it tears, crinkles or feels shiny and foil-lined (like candy wrappers and chip bags), it is considered a mixed material and cannot be accepted.

Clean, dry snap-on tub lids and screw-on caps marked #2, #4 or #5 are accepted at RecycleOn Centers. Clear #1 PET lids are not. Tub lids that are allowed come from items like yogurt, sour cream, cottage cheese, hummus, salsa, guacamole, butter and margarine.

Hard plastic handles (also known as rigid HDPE handles) are most commonly seen on six-packs and four-packs of beverage cans. They snap onto the top of the cans and hold them together. They may also be used to hold two-packs or multipacks of water, or large containers of salsa, sauce, etc., purchased from club stores. Stretchy six-pack rings are made of an entirely different material and cannot be accepted.

Community members with disabilities who are unable to transport these items to a RecycleOn Center can request a free pick up. Businesses with large volumes of materials can contact RecycleOn Oregon staff to arrange for alternative collections. Visit bit.ly/4hW7Vg4 for details on accessing both options.

Explore Health Plan Guide

People in Oregon can now get an early look at their health coverage options for 2027 with the launch of Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) Explore Health Plan Guide, a new online tool designed to help people prepare for Open Enrollment. The Plan Guide helps users explore individual health and dental plans available in their area and compare costs, benefits and coverage. Users can also enter their prescription medications and doctors to see which plans may best meet their health needs. The tool provides an assessment for potential eligibility for Oregon Health Plan (OHP) benefits and financial help through the Marketplace, including an estimate of the amount of financial assistance someone may qualify for.

"Choosing health insurance can feel overwhelming, especially when plans and coverage options are changing," said Chiqui Flowers, director of the Oregon Health Insurance Marketplace. "The Plan Guide gives you a chance to explore options before Open Enrollment begins so you can better understand what coverage and financial help may be available."

Explore Health is available for people in Oregon who do not have access to affordable health coverage through their job and are not eligible for public medical programs such as the OHP. It is Oregon's new state-based health insurance marketplace. To explore the Plan Guide or learn more about Open Enrollment, visit ExploreHealthOR.gov. Using the tool does not automatically enroll someone in coverage.

Community News

Ride Through the Seasons

The Portland Bureau of Transportation's (PBOT) Ride Through the Seasons is back for 2026. Whether you ride every day or occasionally on the weekends, biking in the fall and winter provides a unique way of feeling connected to the city.

Ride Through the Seasons encourages all Portlanders to try out biking beyond summer and fall. Through a series of group rides and skill-building workshops, PBOT's Portland By Cycle team will share tips and resources to help you feel confident biking in all weather conditions. Plus, they'll be raffling off small prizes like bike lights and waterproof gloves at each event.

The All-Season Cycling Workshop takes place Tuesday, November 3, 4-5 pm at Go Lloyd, 700 NE Multnomah St., third floor. During the interactive session, learn tips and techniques for staying dry, comfortable and safe while biking all year round.

Saturday, November 7, 10:30 am-1 pm the Waterways Real and Metaphoric Ride starts at Delicious Donuts, 12 SE Grand Ave. The ride is a tour of public art and community spaces where rainfall and water play an important role in Portland. Free BIKETOWN codes to access a bike for the ride can be obtained by emailing claire.bach@portlandoregon.gov.

In addition to engaging events, PBOT is hosting a month-long photo contest and raffle throughout November. You'll have a chance to win waterproof and high-visibility gear from sponsors Portland Design Works (PDW), Showers Pass and Cleverhood. The bureau will also be raffling annual BIKETOWN memberships. To enter the Rainy Rider Photo Contest, text a photo of yourself and your bicycle in the rain to 888.520.0526.

For quick and easy tips on how to ride through the seasons, download and print local Portland artist Shay Mirk's zine, *Riding Thru Winter in Portland*. Find the zine and more information about Ride Through the Seasons at portland.gov/RideSeasons.

Compost Pumpkins, Leaves and More

Photo by City of Portland.

This fall, make the most of your compost bin to dispose of post-Halloween pumpkins, leaves, branches and the scary leftovers hiding at the back of your fridge. By putting food and yard debris in the green bin, they turn into nutrient-rich compost, which improves soil health while reducing the need for chemical fertilizers.

This year's old Jack-o'-Lanterns could help next year's pumpkins grow by putting them in the compost bin. Before you do, however, make sure to remove candle wax, glow sticks and lights. If there's melted candle wax inside, scoop it out and put the wax in the trash. Painted pumpkins should also go in the trash.

Do yourself and your neighbors a favor by sweeping up leaves from your sidewalk and street, even if you are in a Leaf Day service area. Many first pick ups don't happen until mid-November and, in the meantime, they can clog storm drains, flood intersections and make sidewalks and streets slippery. Grab a rake (it won't take long) and enjoy some crisp fall weather on a nice fall day while making your street a lot nicer to walk, bike and drive on. If there are too many leaves to fit in your bin, fill a 30-gallon kraft paper yard waste bag (40-pound weight limit) and set it out next to your compost bin. There is a $4.30 charge per bag.

Other items to put in the bin include fallen fruit, leaves, weeds, vines, grass, flowers, plant clippings, small branches (less than four inches thick and 36 inches long) and half-eaten candy bars and other sweets (just remove the wrappers first).

When filling your bin, keep in mind that the 60-gallon green compost roll carts have a 135-pound limit. If leaves are dry, bins can be filled to the top, but if leaves are wet, they can reach that maximum weight before the bin is full. Pumpkins are also heavy so if you have more than a few pumpkins to toss, hold some back to add to the bin the following week.

November 3 Election Ballot Drop Box Sites

If you haven't already turned in your ballot for the Tuesday, November 3 election, the best plan is to return it to an Official Ballot Drop Box. Election officials have recommended that those mailing ballots through USPS do so at least a week before the election, which was October 27.

Ballots can be dropped off at Multnomah County Duniway-Lovejoy Elections Building, 1040 SE Morrison St. The 24-hour Official Ballot Drop Site is a slot available to pedestrians on the north side of the building as well as a drive-up Official Ballot Drop Box located on both SE 11th Ave. and SE Belmont St.

In addition, there are numerous 24-hour Official Ballot Drop Sites throughout Portland where ballots can be dropped off until 8 pm on Election Day. In SE Portland, Official Ballot Drop Boxes can be found at Belmont, Holgate, Midland, Rockwood, Sellwood-Moreland and Woodstock libraries. For location details, visit multcolib.org/hours-and-locations. There is also an Official Ballot Drop Box in the plaza of the Portland Mercado, 7238 SE Foster Rd.

We Are Better Together Sponsorships

Every year, the City of Portland sponsors dozens of community events, from festivals to fundraisers to parades. The City focuses on engaging culturally specific organizations and communities; supporting youth and workforce development programs; encouraging public involvement in City processes; and contracting with Disadvantaged Businesses and Women Owned Businesses. The outreach team loves attending events to build relationships and learn about the important work organizations are doing to serve the local community.

Sponsorships are awarded for $2,500 or less and must be requested at least three months in advance. Those interested can submit an application, which takes less than 15 minutes, telling the city about the event (including time, place and audience) and the requested sponsorship amount.

Applications are reviewed by a committee which includes liaisons from more than 20 city bureaus and offices. Decisions are based on funding availability from bureaus and offices with missions related to the event, while ensuring a diversity of organizations and communities are supported. It is uncommon for more than one sponsorship to be awarded to a particular organization per year.

Visit portland.gov/civic/we-are-better-together for the application and see the 82 community events that received funding during the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

NOVEMBER EVENTS

CANDY DRIVE – Mint Dental Works is partnering with Urban Gleaners for its annual Halloween candy drive. Monday, November 2-Friday, November 6, families can bring unopened, extra Halloween candy to Mint Dental Works, 1401 SE Morrison St., Suite 108, 8 am-3 pm. At the last drive, neighbors donated more than 400 pounds of candy. This year, the practice hopes to beat that number while shining a light on a year-round issue of a lack of reliable access to enough food.

FALL PHOTO CONTEST – Urban Forestry loves a good fall photo, so they're bringing back the Fall Photo Contest. Submit your best fall pictures of the city's trees by December 1. If chosen as a winner, you can get a free Urban Forestry t-shirt. Send your photos to UFVolunteers@PortlandOregon.gov or tag them on social media @PortlandParks on Instagram and Facebook.

EXPLORING TREES – Join Urban Forestry at the Belmont Library (1038 SE Cesar Chavez Blvd.) Wednesday, November 4, 6-7:30 pm to explore tree samples using all five senses to feel grounded in natural spaces. You'll also learn about how connecting with nature and trees can improve mental and physical health. No registration necessary for the free event.

ACTIVATE PORTLAND SUMMIT – Join PDX Food Forest for a day of connection with 20+ organizations committed to creating a more beautiful and connected Portland Saturday, November 7, 9:45 am-4 pm at Taborspace, 5441 SE Belmont St. Network, attend workshops and engage in meaningful discussions that empower the community to take action with a focus on regenerative agriculture, placemaking, social justice, mutual aid, community building, climate resilience and land tending. Registration ($13-$30) at zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/activate-portland-fall-summit-v.

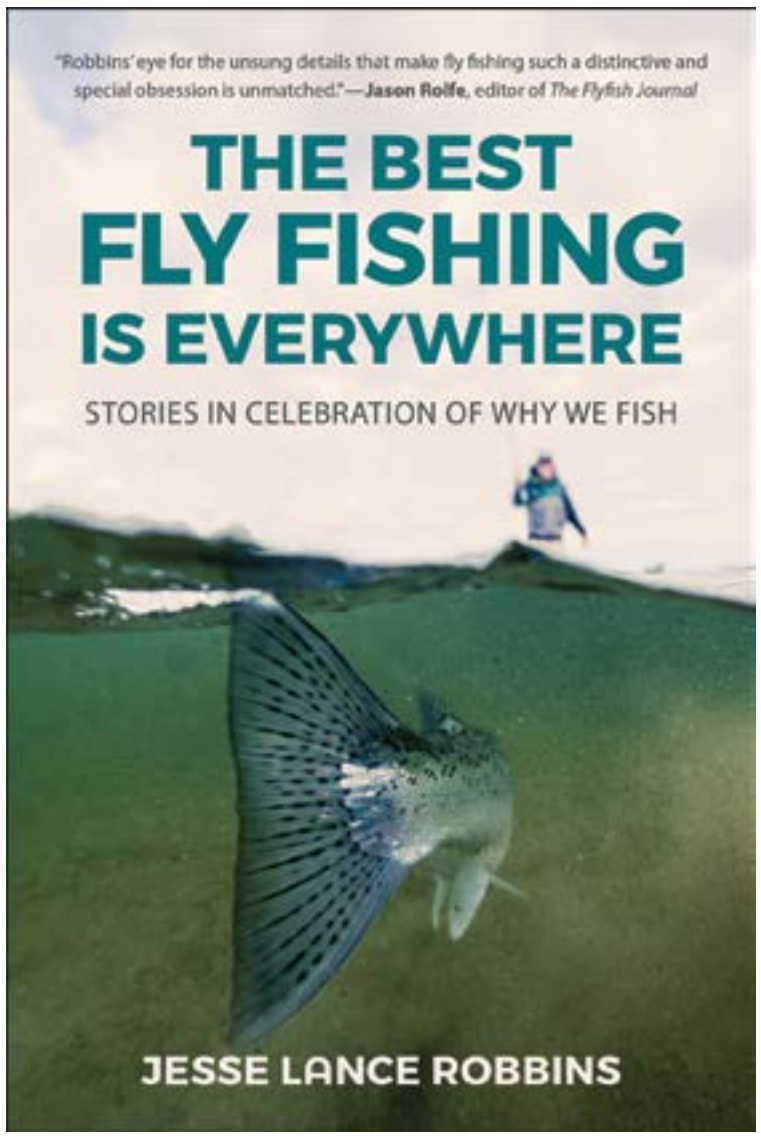
HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE – Unity Spiritual Center (4525 SE Stark St.) holds their Annual Holiday Marketplace with crafters and vendors from Unity and the surrounding communities gathering for two days of selling their goods for your holiday gift giving and finding treasures for yourself. Preview Friday, November 13, 5-7:30 pm, event Saturday, November 14, 10 am-4 pm.

ROLLER SKATING PARTY – Roller skate, chat with Councilor Koyama Lane and hang out with the community Sunday, November 15, 10:15-11:45 am at Mt. Scott Community Center, 5530 SE 72nd Ave. Bring your suggestions, questions and celebrations for a fun morning of connection. The roller skating rink is in the basement and is accessible from the east side of the building. Reserve a spot at the free event at https://bit.ly/4kgZQE3.

SILENT WALK FOR PEACE – The last Saturday of every month anywhere from four to 400 people wind through Mt. Tabor Park without speaking. Claire Valla, a South Tabor resident and practicing Buddhist, started the Silent Peace Walk in January 2026. Not religious and open to anyone, the walk starts at 9 am at SE Lincoln St. and 64th Ave., rain or shine. Find it on Instagram @Pdxsilentpeacewalks2026.

The Best Fly Fishing is Everywhere

By David Krogh



Fishing is a sport that everyone can participate in. And unlike most sports, fishing comes in many forms. You can fly fish in a river, ocean fish, lake fish with hook, worm and bobber and many more ways.

Oregonian Jesse Robbins is an avid fly fisherman and former guide and has written a book which looks at many aspects of fishing that we often either take for granted or fail to recognize. His book *The Best Fly Fishing Is Everywhere* attempts to focus on what it is that we can learn from or enjoy from fishing. Robbins stated, "If readers could come away with any or all of these things, I'd be happy: some simple enjoyment; an appreciation or greater appreciation for the many gifts that the outdoors, rivers, fish and fly fishing can give us; an inspiration to go fishing; an inspiration to help protect the waters, rivers, ecosystems and fish they love; an acknowledgement, understanding and appreciation for the various types of relationships that fly fishing can give us (relationships to other people, to places and maybe even a deeper understanding of ourselves); some information about where and how fly fishing can be done around the world; perhaps most importantly, a sense for my philosophy that 'the best' fly fishing is subjective and doesn't have to require expensive trips or gear or catching the biggest or the most amount of fish."

As the above suggests, this is not a "how to fish" book. In it are several different short chapters describing fishing and fishing trips that the author has participated in over the past 30 years. These include local fishing both as a boy and as an adult in the US and also foreign fishing trips in such countries as Canada, New Zealand and Japan. Many of these chapters were previously published in fishing and other periodicals while several more are entirely new, written exclusively for inclusion within this book.

The chapters are not laid out in chronological order but cover a specific subject such as casting, flying by airplane to a remote area to fish, fishing a hidden trout pond and additional interesting topics.

Getting back to the issue of "how to fish," the author was asked how one learns how to fly fish if not exposed to it at an early age. "I encourage anyone who's interested in fly fishing to start learning! Between fly fishing shops, clubs, organizations, guides, instructors, books, magazines and online, fly fishing education is abundant, so whatever 'channel' feels best is the best one to start with. Regardless of where one starts, eventually it's worth connecting with another more experienced fly angler to ask questions and get feedback in real time. Learning to fly fish requires time, practice and patience, but within its challenges also lie its rewards."

The adventures within the book include fishing situations where the author caught and kept fish and also did catch and release. Robbins was asked how you decide which to do. He responded, "Some considerations include: whether or not you want to eat the fish; the status of the population of the fish and the fishery; how you feel about the ethics of catch and release; certainly the regulations/laws of where you're fishing; and more."

Robbins was asked if he still is a fishing guide. He answered, "I do not guide formally/professionally anymore, but I frequently take friends and acquaintances fly fishing and help teach them how to cast and fish. No kids but lots of kids of friends who I am close with."

He is currently also involved with conservation organizations. "I work full-time at Trout Unlimited and believe wholeheartedly in our mission and work, which is to bring together diverse interests to care for and recover rivers and streams so our children can experience the joy of wild and native trout and salmon. Trout Unlimited is a national, coldwater conservation nonprofit that works in habitat restoration, policy, advocacy, scientific research, education and engagement. I also sit on the Board (and am former staffer) of WaterWatch of Oregon, which is a state-based organization focusing on water quantity issues and free-flowing rivers. Additionally, I support/follow/engage with Wild Salmon Center, Native Fish Society, Captains for Clean Water, Atlantic Salmon Federation, Bonefish & Tarpon Trust, McKenzie River Trust and a few others."

Robbins was born and raised in Maine and graduated from Bates College in 2006 with a BA in Economics. He went on to receive additional training in writing, fly casting instruction and whitewater boating. He has a very detailed personal website (jesselancerobbins.com) that includes a bio, writing samples, an informative blog and additional discussion about his book. He currently lives in Springfield.

Robbins states, "Fly fishing is a vehicle to learn more about and engage with, and develop a relationship with the natural world; 'the best' fly fishing can be found anywhere, at any time, with the right perspective; given those, it only follows that we all could and should do something to help protect and restore the natural world, however you define it."

The Best Fly Fishing Is Everywhere is published by Hatherleigh Press Ltd., in partnership with Penguin Random House (hatherleighcommunity.com). The book is available online and via selected local booksellers including Powell's Books.

Aladdin Theater Celebrates Upcoming 100-Year Anniversary With Mural

from page 1

The Aladdin Theater's new mural on Milwaukie Ave. Photo by Portland Street Art Alliance.

boosted the theater's popularity.

"We host all genres," says Travis Labbe, the president of True West. "On any given night you can see a bluegrass band, indie band, punk band…or see a film or podcast, [as well as] a ton of comedy [acts] at the Aladdin." With its wide variety of live entertainment, the Aladdin Theater is a popular venue among the SE Portland community, and patrons often find lines out the door for highly-anticipated acts. In addition to music, the Aladdin Theater "hosts community events like the Brooklyn neighborhood movie nights and the Oregon Music Hall of Fame ceremony," which raises money for music education in Portland's schools, according to Labbe.

The idea for the mural arose in late 2025. PSAA, a Portland nonprofit that supports education, outreach and the production of street art throughout the city, connected True West to Blaine Fontana, a Portland-based graphic designer who runs the company Fontana Studios, to create the mural. This January will be his 24th year in the business. "We chose Blaine based on his style and portfolio," explains Labbe. "We loved his work."

As a team, True West, PSAA and Fontana then worked together to create a design plan that would represent the key features of the iconic theater. "[The owners] wanted to honor the building's long history as a Portland movie theater, give a nod to longtime tenants like Classic Pianos and keep it bold, colorful and uplifting," says Tiffany Conklin, the co-founder and executive director of PSAA. The planning process went through two design drafts before signing off on an official one. Then, "PSAA secured the city mural permit and helped with scheduling and logistics," Conklin shares. This allowed Fontana to begin the painting process.

The painting process took around five weeks to complete—longer than Fontana had initially hoped—due to a heatwave and wildfire smoke. "We safely could only work between 1 and 5 pm," says Fontana. He states that this mural is the most complicated piece he has created in Portland, which also contributed to the extended time. To bring the design to life, Fontana drew inspiration from his personal love for music and festivals. "They are an integral part of my being and truly define my personality," he explains.

Public art is an important aspect of Portland's community. According to the City of Portland website, "Portland City Code specifies that up to two percent of the City's qualifying infrastructure projects be dedicated to public art." With the addition of this celebratory mural, Milwaukie Ave. now provides an eye-catching art piece, brightening the busy street and sparking community connections. "Murals like this give people a landmark and help each part of Portland feel like its own place," says Conklin. The Aladdin Theater will continue to support the city's music scene with the help of its patrons leading up to its long-awaited 100-year anniversary.

Montavilla Farmers Market Cultivates Community Year-Round

By Francesca "Frankie" Silverstein

Shoppers peruse a vibrant assortment of fresh produce. Vendors at the Montavilla Farmers Market offer fruits, vegetables, baked goods and more. Photo by Montavilla Farmers Market.

A Portland winter conjures visions of dreary days blanketed in a constant sky of gray. Yet the Montavilla Farmers Market is a ray of sunshine, ensuring Portlanders can fuel up on fresh produce for their rainy adventures and meet gloomy days head-on. "Everyone's there in their rainboots—we have rain pants and your rain jacket and gloves and scarves because it's cold and wet, but you're still there with a smile on your face…It's your time to get out of the house and get some fresh air and have a cup of hot coffee or chocolate," describes Montavilla Farmers Market Executive Director Lisa Hebert. Rain or shine, the Montavilla Farmers Market is in the gravel lot at SE Stark St. and 76th Ave. on Sundays 10 am-2 pm.

Beyond fresh fruits and vegetables, the market includes hot food, drinks and baked goods. With about 60 vendors during the summer and 50 in winter, the market is both a thriving community and a powerful display of Portland's local business scene. "Walking down the street on the market day, it feels so lively and happy. You see so many kids, and you see so many of your neighbors," says Hebert.

Many vendors and customers have been participating for years, making it a microcosm of the quirky community Portland is known for. Alex Newton, founder of Radiant Coffee Roasters, recalls, "Montavilla Farmers Market is where I started my coffee roasting business seven years ago. The neighborhood has been the cornerstone of our business, which now includes seven farmers markets around Portland and Eugene, as well as a coffee shop in Eugene."

Kristine Xu, co-founder of the microbakery, Bread Friend, also emphasizes the importance of the relationships formed at the Montavilla Farmers Market. She says, "It's been a very rewarding experience to build a community so close to our home." The support of the market is a launching pad for small businesses, and the market hopes to make selling accessible.

On the other side, accessibility for customers is also central to the Montavilla Farmers Market's mission. Double Up Food Bucks is a program sponsored by the nonprofit Farmers Market Fund. The program offers SNAP users up to $20 in dollar matching. Participants take $20 or less off their EBT card at the market's information booth and then receive double the value in tokens that can be used to purchase produce from the many vendors. Hebert highlights, "It's a win for people using EBT benefits and a win for our farmers as well."

Another community-oriented program the market runs is the Power of Produce (POP) Club, which started at the Oregon City Farmers Market in 2010. Children aged 2-12 can visit the market's information booth to try new seasonal produce. In exchange for their curiosity, they will receive $3 in "POP Bucks" to spend at the market stands. This offers children nutritional autonomy and the opportunity to meet the people farming their food.

Both of these programs also benefit the farmers through additional sales. Zack Cooper, a first-generation farmer and owner of Farrah Farms in Molalla, explains, "The business generated from direct-to-consumer sales stays in our community, supporting our farm, family and the lives of our hard-working employees." Hebert emphasizes that farmers markets in general are an important part of championing local farmers and communities. "I think a lot of people don't know that all the farmers markets, we're talking to each other, and we're trying to help each other."

On their own, the Montavilla Farmers Market is a small team—five part-time employees run the nonprofit. Yet with the numerous other local markets, the active Montavilla community and the diverse array of vendors, the team contributing to the market's success is much larger. From accessibility efforts to unique produce, there is lots to love about the market. Hebert is direct: "I love vegetables." At the Montavilla Farmers Market, vegetables are more than just a healthy snack; they cultivate sustainability and community.

Protecting Yourself From Scams

By Kris McDowell

All too often there's news about another scam trying to trick people into sending money or sharing personal information. Phishing attempts, malware, impersonators and online fraud are some of the many ways scammers attempt to defraud people near and far. Locally, the City of Portland has put together tips for knowing how scams work, spotting scams, how to verify a weird message, what to do if you do get scammed and basic precautions to protect yourself.

The City uses advanced technology and robust cybersecurity to protect information within their systems. But scammers sometimes obtain information that is publicly available by law. They may use this information to impersonate City employees and try to steal people's money, obtain their personal information or install malware on systems. Scammers have targeted people who live or work in Portland; people who do business with the City, including vendors and suppliers; and people who have applied for licenses or permits.

Scammers use email, text or phone calls pretending to be from the City of Portland. These messages often look or sound official and can be very convincing. A lot of these scams have common themes, including convincing people to send them money by claiming that bills or fees owed to the City haven't been paid; using an urgent tone or insisting people must act now to prevent consequences; tricking people into clicking on a link that installs malware on their system; and using fake forms that look official.

Scammers use messages that look or sound official with an immediate call to action. The email may contain a City logo or a text may use a person's legal name. Red flags that should raise people's suspicions include messages that are unexpected (outside of the routine notices or updates one receives); messages in a new or unexpected format (i.e. the water bill usually comes in the mail but a text or phone call comes in pretending to be someone from the City); payment is requested immediately; payment is requested through wire transfer, money transfer app or cryptocurrency; and the message asks for account or personal information. Scammers also use deceptive email addresses that look close to an official account (i.e. using "portland-or.com" instead of "portlandoregon.gov").

If you receive a suspicious email, text or phone call claiming to be from the City of Portland, Multnomah County, the police, the sheriff or any local government, do not reply immediately. Rather, take a few minutes to stop and verify. One way to do that is to call 311. 311 call takers can help determine if the message is real or fake. Another way is to look up contact information on portland.gov to reach a City employee in the relevant department. Reach out to them and ask about the message that was received.

Suspicious messages should be handled with extreme caution. Do not open files or click on any links and do not reply.

If you have responded to a fraudulent message and gotten scammed, take action as soon as possible. The sooner action is taken, the better the chances of limiting its impact. If personal information has been provided or money paid, file a police report with the Portland Police Bureau by going to portland.gov/police/cor and scrolling to the bottom for "Get Started with Your Online Report." Phishing, spam or fraud attempts can be reported to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center, ic3.gov.

Simple steps to limit exposure to scams include limiting the personal information shared online, using privacy settings, disabling location features and keeping apps and operating systems

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LE 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:

October was Dyslexia Awareness Month. I want to stress the importance of diagnosis and remediation of dyslexia. Dyslexia can be mild to severe, and has nothing to do with intelligence. Many have average to above-average intelligence and score high in spatial reasoning and visual thinking.

Because I knew nothing about dyslexia, I never thought to look for signs of dyslexia in my own son, and for years I asked his school for help, but was repeatedly told to wait. "He'll catch on," "Give him time" or "He isn't trying hard enough." I was told, "There is no such thing as dyslexia."

By the time my son was diagnosed, precious years passed. He was working hard, but the instruction he was receiving wasn't meeting his needs. I eventually found an Orton-Gillingham Academy-trained tutor. The difference was miraculous. Within a few months, my son was reading and his confidence returned.

One thing I have learned is that not all dyslexia tutoring is the same. The Orton-Gillingham approach is not a program. Effective instruction requires extensive training, experience and the ability to develop individualized, diagnostic and prescriptive lessons based on what the child needs. Unfortunately, the name "Orton-Gillingham" is used to describe programs or training, consisting of only a couple of weeks or less of instruction.

That is very different from the rigorous training required through the Orton-Gillingham Academy. Children who receive intervention by inexperienced tutors, or "programs," still may struggle and therefore be traumatized twice. The problem isn't that the child couldn't learn—it's that the program moved too quickly or wasn't individualized. Families deserve to know the difference between a program that uses the words "Orton-Gillingham" and a tutor who has received authentic, comprehensive Orton-Gillingham training.

Every child can learn. Sometimes, we simply need to change how we teach.

Jennifer M. Pultz M.S. C/OGA and co-founder
Orton-Gillingham Dyslexia Center

AE Arts & Entertainment

Stark Street Studios Holiday Show

Babette Harvey, Bunnies & One Bird

Stark Street Studios & Gallery, one of the oldest clay studios in Portland, holds their annual holiday show November 27-29 and December 1-24. Each year on Thanksgiving weekend and through December, they open their studio doors and gallery to welcome the public in for the holidays. The work of 11 working studio potters, sculptors and one jeweler will be on display. Discover handcrafted works of art for holiday gift giving and mingle with local artists in a fun and festive atmosphere while shopping in the gallery and wandering through the studio spaces.

Each artist has their own unique style and way of expressing themselves through clay. Explore Amy Fields with her wheel thrown porcelain nature inspired work to Scott Cameron Bell's hand built colorful quirky vases and mini birds on houses to Julie Stewart's beautiful earthy raku lamps and flower vases. Their sole jeweler, Carol Criewe, hand fabricates all her pieces, her signature element being her unique ceramic stones exquisitely incorporated into her modern sculptural art jewelry.

Stark Street Studios holiday show will be open Tuesday-Sunday, 11 am-5 pm, located at 2809 SE Stark St.

PLUS PLUS Festival

In its third year, PAM CUT's PLUS PLUS Festival of Tomorrow returns Thursday, November 19-Sunday, November 22 at Tomorrow Theater (3530 SE Division St.), as well as the Portland Art Museum. The festival celebrates unbound artists who dissolve boundaries, defy easy categorization and expand the notion of what's possible in cinema and beyond.

PLUS PLUS features wildly imaginative programming, including unbound cinema, comedy, performances, sound-driven and interactive storytelling, live animation and other media arts. The focus is on active, participatory, experiential art and storytelling.

Tomorrow Theater events include opening night with comedian Joel Kim Booster; '90s Analog Ecstasy with Mark Pellington, Lance Bangs, special guest stars, vendors and a special screening of *THIS IS BUZZ*; Memory As A Rock Out Of Reach duet performance with Erika M. Anderson (EMA) and visual artist Tabitha Nikolail; and a sneak preview of *March Forth*, just off its premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival.

Tickets and full schedule of festival events at tomorrowtheater.org/plus-plus. Prices vary depending on performance.

Michael Allen Harrison Concert

Acclaimed contemporary pianist and composer Michael Allen Harrison will perform his 24th annual concert to benefit the St. Philip Neri Catholic Church Altar Society, Tuesday, December 1, 7 pm at St. Philip Neri, 2408 SE 16th Ave. Free parking is available in the church parking lot and along side streets.

The concert will include guest vocalist Julianne Johnson. Admission includes a complimentary Christmas cookie and punch reception at intermission, hosted by the Altar Society. Harrison will also have CDs available for purchase and signing during the break.

Tickets are $35 preferred seating, $25 general admission. Purchase in advance at stphilipneripdx.org, by calling the church message line at 503.231.4955 or at the door (cash or check only).

Joanne Shaw Taylor Concert

British blues-rock guitarist and singer-songwriter Joanne Shaw Taylor will bring her fall 2026 US tour to the Aladdin Theater Sunday, November 15, 8 pm. Experience an unforgettable night of blues-infused rock as Taylor and Robert Jon & The Wreck bring their powerhouse performances to the stage. Renowned for her blistering guitar work and soulful vocals, Taylor will perform fan favorites from her acclaimed Billboard-charting album *Black & Gold* alongside new music from her forthcoming release, *The Trouble With Love.*

Robert Jon & The Wreck are celebrated for their driving Southern rock sound, rich harmonies and electrifying live shows, featuring standout songs from their latest album, *Heartbreaks & Last Goodbyes.* Blending blues roots, fiery musicianship and high-octane rock energy, this dynamic lineup promises a night of incredible live music.

Tickets ($45-$55 plus fees) for the all ages show include reserved seating and are available at aladdin-theater.com.

Alembic Artists in Performance

Performance Works NW (PWNW) presents *Alembic Artists in Performance*, featuring new and in-progress works by three artists of Alembic Residency Cohort #12: claire barrera, Melody Erfani and Jae Seung Hancock Thursday, November 5-Sunday, November 8. Over the past several months, the artists have used PWNW's studios to research, experiment, create and rehearse. This shared performance event offers audiences a glimpse into their individual practices and the questions, discoveries and possibilities emerging from their residency.

Bringing together three distinct explorations of movement, sound and relationship, the program moves across questions of perception, care, memory and identity. claire barrera and pianist Rory Cowal investigate the impulses between stillness and movement, silence and sound. In *Queen Lear,* Melody Erfani reimagines Shakespeare's aging king as a mother confronting shifting dynamics of care, power and family. Jae Seung Hancock draws on the colors, textures and rhythms of the natural world to explore origin, memory and cultural identity.

Thursday, November 5, 7:30 pm is a ticketed dress rehearsal/preview with reduced-price tickets available. Performances Friday and Saturday are also at 7:30 pm, with the Saturday performance being ASL interpreted. Sunday's performance is at 4 pm. For tickets and additional information, visit pwnw-pdx.org/2026/10/01/november-5-8-alembic-artists-in-performance.

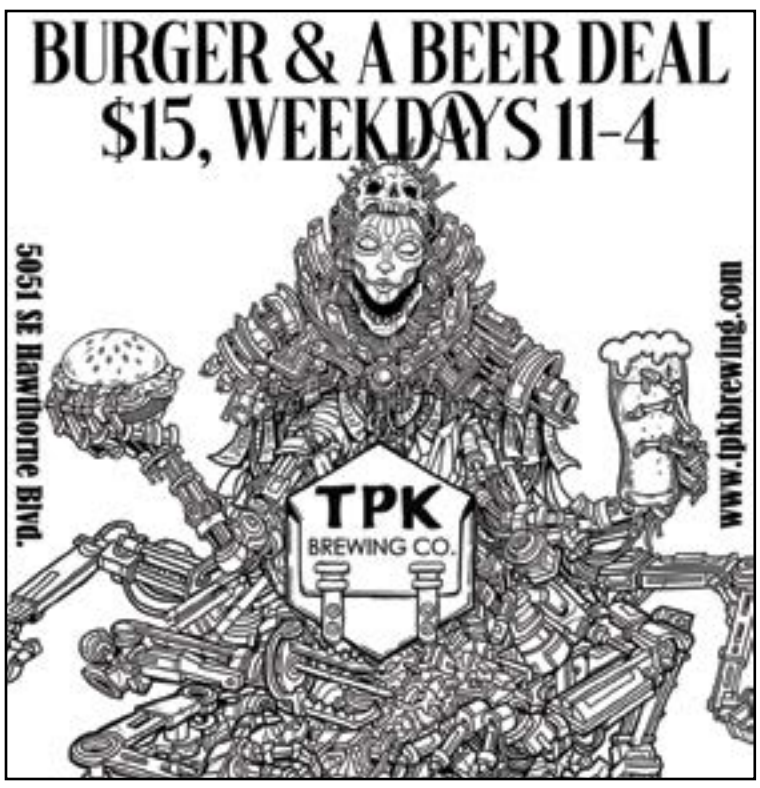
November Wine Events

Get ready for the holidays at Hip Chicks Do Wine with one of their three events. For those in need of some fresh inspiration for holiday entertaining, there's the Holiday Appetizer and Wine Pairing event Friday, November 13-Sunday, November 15. During the three days of the event (Friday 2-6 pm, Saturday 12-6 pm, Sunday 12-5 pm), they'll be pouring a flight of six wines, with four of them paired with delicious holiday bites. Discover new flavor combinations and get the recipes to recreate them at home. Hip Chicks will also be accepting donations of coats, hats, socks and scarves for Tod's Corner. Tickets $35.

Tuesday, November 17, 5-7 pm and Sunday, November 22, 12-5 pm is the latest installment of their Wine & Design series. Instructor Laura Gifford Kerr of Gifford's Flowers will guide attendees in decorating a fresh evergreen wreath to match individuals' personal style. Work with a variety of decorative holiday elements and finish it all off with a spectacular custom bow. Open to all skill levels, tickets ($100) include all supplies, instruction and choice of beverage (wine, holiday sangria, beer or soda). Additional wine and food will be available for purchase.

Kick off holiday shopping while supporting local authors, independent books and small businesses at Words & Wine Saturday, November 28, 12-5 pm and Sunday, November 29, 12-4 pm. The book pop-up features 17 talented local authors and Jan's Books and will be filled with stories, conversation and unique gifts for all ages, including plenty of signed books. A holiday raffle will offer multiple raffle prizes each day. Admission is free; register online for a complimentary raffle ticket. Wines and Hip Chicks' holiday mulled wine will be available for purchase to enjoy while browsing.

Visit hipchicksdowine.com/new-events for tickets and additional event information.



AE Arts & Entertainment

Clay Sculpture Workshop

Leikam Brewery, in collaboration with Rain Dragon Studio, is happy to present their seventh Clay Sculpture Workshop in Leikam's beautiful Community Room Sunday, November 15, 4-7 pm. Attendees will be sculpting a small Golem (a protector-monster from Jewish folklore).

The hands-on, skill-building workshop includes all tools and clay needed to create your own Golem figure from stoneware clay. Instructor Teri Fahrendorf will bring the Golems created back to her studio where she will slowly dry, fire, stain and then fire them again in her ceramic kiln. The finished Golems will be available for pick-up at Leikam Brewery about a month later.

Cost: $74 per person, which includes all materials and one beer+tip token (beverage substitutions available). Register at raindragonstudio.square.site.

Pen Pals Oregon Premiere

After their hilarious turn in last year's *Savannah Sipping Society*, Helen Raptis and Beth Willis return in the hit off-Broadway show *Pen Pals* at triangle productions! Thursday, November 19-Sunday, December 6. Written by Michael Griffo, who has taken his mother's stories and turned them into an evening of entertainment, the play follows Bernie (Raptis), who lives in New Jersey, and Mags (Willis) who lives in Sheffield, England, and their friendship that unfolds over decades.

The characters began writing letters as 14-year-olds, sharing trivial bits, the most intimate details, all the happiness and all the heartache, but never met. The play is an extended flashback where they read letters sent to each other over the past 50 years. They age before the audience as they tell the stories of their lives without the aid of costumes, make-up or wigs.

90-minute shows (no intermission) run Thursdays (7 pm), Fridays (7:30 pm), Saturdays (7:30 pm) and two Sundays (November 29 and December 6, 2 pm). Tickets ($5 Arts For All, $20-$40 general admission) available at trianglepro.org/penpals, by calling the box office (503.239.5919) or at the door.

Little Women on Stage

The Performing Arts at Cleveland HS@Marshall is thrilled to announce its upcoming production of *Little Women…the Musical*. Although Cleveland High School has temporarily relocated to the Marshall High School campus while the modernized high school is constructed, the show must go on. Performances run Thursday, November 12-Saturday, November 14 in the auditorium at the Marshall High School campus, located at 3905 SE 91st Ave.

Based on Louisa May Alcott's cherished 1868 novel, *Little Women* is a heartwarming, coming-of-age musical adaptation. The story follows the lives of the four March sisters—Jo, Meg, Beth and Amy—as they navigate the joys and hardships of growing up in Civil War-era Massachusetts. Filled with beautiful music and timeless themes, this production is fantastic entertainment for the entire family. Support the talented student performers and experience a classic story brought to life on stage.

Performances take place all three days at 7 pm, plus a 2 pm Saturday matinee. Tickets ($10 students, $15 adults) available at gofan.co/app/school/OR21940.

Tiny Concert at Lighthouse Yoga

There is No Mountain performs an acoustic duo show Saturday, November 14, 7 pm at Lighthouse Yoga PDX, with The Glyptodons and Morning Breath. The Tiny Concert is an intimate evening of live music where the stage isn't just in front of you; it's all around you.

Instead of taking turns on a stage, all three bands are blending their sets together in real time. Expect a seamless, kinetic flow: one band steps up, the next picks up the rhythm and then all three collide for custom crossover arrangements. At peak moments, all three bands will literally surround the room, wrapping the audience in a 360-degree wall of sound. Expect the sound of lush harmonies, infectious tunes and three distinct acts weaving seamlessly into one collaborative super-set, with guitar, cello, banjo, sax and clarinet.

The vibe is cozy, welcoming and vibrant. Skip the crowded venues, settle into floor cushions or provided chairs, sipping on NA drinks and sink into an immersive night of music designed to feel like a secret house show with your friends and neighbors.

Tickets ($15) for the 90-minute performance available at bit.ly/4zQoO1S.

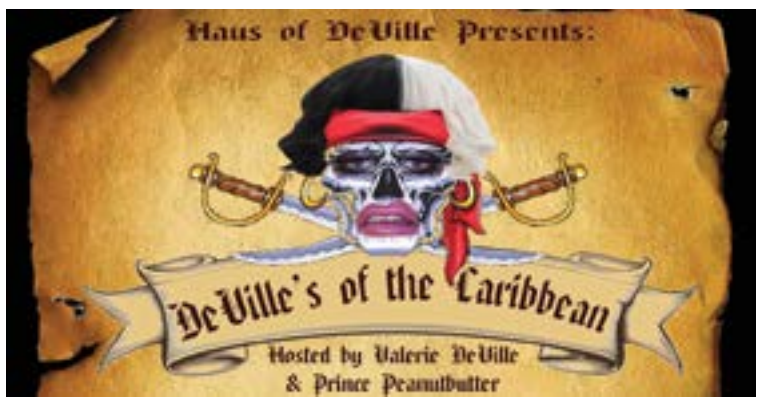
Kray Van Kirk

The Portland FolkMusic Society is proud to present Kray Van Kirk in concert Saturday, November 21, 7:30 pm at Reedwood Friends Church, 2901 SE Steele St. Singer-songwriter Van Kirk offers more than a concert: he delivers a journey into story, myth and shared human experience. A gifted fingerstyle guitarist with a warm baritone voice, he combines intricate acoustic playing with imaginative songwriting that draws listeners into richly detailed worlds.

Van Kirk's engaging presence and thoughtful lyrics invite audiences to see themselves as part of the narrative. His central message, that everyone can be the hero of their own story, resonates deeply, giving his concerts both emotional weight and uplifting spirit.

Advance tickets ($13 students, $22 PFS member, $25 general admission + fees) available at bit.ly/4zNm5Gb. Tickets ($14 students, $25 PFS member, $28 general admission) will also be available at the door. Children under 12 are free. Doors open at 7 pm.

Swashbuckling Drag Show

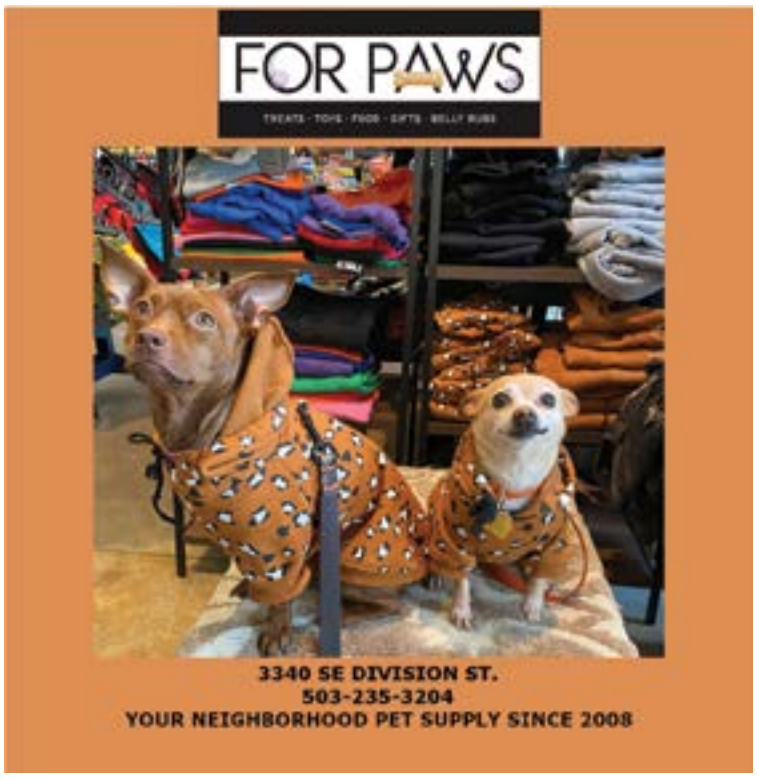


Haus of DeVille presents DeVille's of the Caribbean! A Swashbuckling Drag Show Wednesday, November 11, 8 pm at Peacock PDX, 1400 SE Morrison St. Get ready to set sail for a night of diabolical drag and buccaneer burlesque hosted by Prince Peanut Butter and Valerie DeVille.

The night features acts inspired by *The Goonies*, *Cutthroat Island,* One Piece, Disneyland's own Pirates of the Caribbean ride and much, much more from Valerie DeVille, Anna Nymph, Theoddra B. MonStar, Xo Skeleton, Prince Peanut Butter and Princess Jelly. There may even be a mermaid or two. So stow your weapons and bring your treasure chests for the performers to pillage your tips with.

Advance tickets ($13) for the 21+ show available at retrowithxo.com. Tickets ($15) will also be available at the door. The venue is wheelchair accessible and doors open at 7 pm.

Holding a festival, art opening, stage production, family friendly event, 21+ event or other in SE Portland? Email your press releases and images to goingout@seportland.news



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.

Normal Labs: When the Numbers Are Fine And You Are Not

Your labs are normal. It is meant to be reassuring, and usually it is, unless you do not feel normal. If you have been tired for a year, your digestion has gone sideways or the brain fog does not lift no matter how early you go to bed, normal can sound like a door closing. Two things can be true at once. The tests were run correctly, and you still do not feel like yourself.

It helps to know what normal means on a lab report. The Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute, whose methods most American labs follow, defines a reference interval as the central 95 percent of results from a group of apparently healthy people. The two numbers printed beside your value are the 2.5th and the 97.5th percentiles of that group. So normal describes a crowd. It tells you where most people landed. It was never built to tell you where you function best.

One consequence is simple arithmetic. If the range holds 95 percent of healthy people, five in 100 fall outside it on any test, one in 20. Run a 20-item panel on a well person and something usually comes back flagged. A single value just past the line matters less on its own than it does next to your symptoms and your earlier results.

The more useful consequence runs the other direction. A number can sit inside the range and still not be where you feel well. Thyroid testing shows this. Most labs call TSH normal up to about 4.5. When researchers analyzed the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey and set aside everyone with known thyroid disease, medication or antibodies, the upper limit fell to roughly 4.1. Some argue that even 4.1 is inflated by undetected thyroid dysfunction inside the reference population, a point still debated. The published range includes people who are not entirely well. That is why your value can be normal and still worth a conversation.

This is good news. A normal report is not the end of an inquiry. It is where one begins.

Three questions open it up. First, what is the trend? A ferritin that has drifted from 90 to 25 over six years is telling a story, even though both numbers print as normal. Second, what was not measured? Standard panels often leave out fasting insulin, GGT (a liver enzyme that reflects oxidative stress), vitamin D, free T3 (the unbound form of thyroid hormone) and inflammatory markers like homocysteine and high sensitivity CRP. Fasting insulin is the one I would name first, because read next to glucose, it usually shifts years before blood sugar alone looks off. Third, what else was happening that day? Fasting status, a recent cold, a new medication and, for women, the point in your cycle, all move the numbers.

You can do a good deal of this yourself. You are entitled to copies of your results, so keep them in one folder or spreadsheet and so several years of trend are visible at a glance. If you have stayed with one lab company, many will graph the trend for you. Before your next appointment, write down your three most bothersome symptoms, when each began and what makes each better or worse. Ask whether the panel included the markers that match what you are describing. And keep the ordinary levers pulled while you sort it out, because 25-30 grams of protein at breakfast, a 10-minute walk after your largest meal and a consistent bedtime move more numbers than most people expect.

Not every symptom has a laboratory answer, and more testing is not always better. Incidental findings lead to more tests. Sometimes the fatigue is sleep debt, grief, perimenopause or a medication side effect, and the next step is a longer conversation, not another blood draw. Anything you are starting or stopping, supplements included, is worth running past your prescribing provider.

So ask for your results. Look at what they have been doing over the years, not only where they landed this time. Being told you are fine and actually feeling fine are two different things, and it is reasonable to keep asking good questions until they agree.

Aleksandra Giedwoyn, MD
Heart of Tabor Functional Medicine
heartoftaborfm.com

BA Business Association Notes

Hawthorne Boulevard Business Association
By Jocelyn Jester

The Hawthorne Boulevard Business Association (HBBA) is gearing up for the holiday season and beginning to plan our sip + shop and holiday celebration in December.

HBBA Board Meetings are on second Thursdays, 9 am via Zoom. Our Board Meetings are where the bulk of our decisions and progress are made. Members and guests are invited to join the discussion. We would love your input on our upcoming projects.

Visit HawthorneBlvd.com to learn more or join our mailing list.

Kernside Business Association
By Elizabeth Armstrong

Kernside is ringing in the holiday season on the Ankeny Rainbow Road Plaza with a tree lighting Saturday, December 12, 5 pm. Follow along on our Instagram account, @kernside.pdx, for the 12 Days of Kernside giveaway. It features 12 businesses, each donating a prize worth at least $50. Entering the giveaway is easy: Comment on at least one Instagram post. Look out for holiday window displays popping up around the neighborhood.

Neighborhood Notes

Buckman Community Association
By Susan Lindsay

At the October 8 meeting, staff from Portland Bureau of Transportation presented on two separate areas of their interest which could affect Buckman, the proposed west Buckman "Green Loop" and a look at forming a potential new parking district in residential areas of east Buckman with parking meters.

At our upcoming November 12 meeting, representatives from the Bureau of Planning will come to present on their efforts toward upzoning a large portion of the inner eastside of Portland (12th-60th avenues, SE Powell Blvd. to NE Fremont St.) including the historic areas to eliminate all single family, duplex, four-plex and cluster housing zoning and replacing it with universal, multi-story, multi-unit apartment zoning. Also at this meeting will be representatives from Portland for All, an up-zoning advocacy group, and Save NE Portland, a grassroots group opposing the city's efforts at this mass rezoning. Information about both of these groups can be found on their respective websites. There will be time for presenters, Q & A, and audience comment and discussion. Community members are encouraged to come in person, but we host a hybrid link too. Please join us for what will certainly be a lively and interesting discussion!

Regarding Buckman Elementary, the BCA is sending a letter to the PPS superintendent and school board members, in opposition to a proposed closure of our neighborhood school and its highly regarded arts programming. We will be having a standing open agenda item each month for the potential school closure issue.

Buckman meetings are held every second Thursday of the month save August, 7-9 pm at 1302 SE Ankeny St., in the Imago Dei fellowship room. Enter on the corner of SE 13th Ave. and SE Ankeny St. Meetings are also available via our hybrid link found on our website, buckmanpdx.org. Past meeting minutes are found there, too. Contact the BCA anytime: buckmanboard@googlegroups.com.

Hosford-Abernethy Neighborhood District
By Jill Riebesehl

The chock-full October Board meeting of the Hosford-Abernethy Neighborhood District kept us past our deadline. City staff members from the Portland Bureau of Transportation provided detailed information on how Vision Zero is working to make our streets safer and, further, how parking districts are established and new ones added. Also, the Clinton-Division Business Association requested our Enhanced Service District support.

An Abernethy Elementary PTA spokesperson described plans for resurfacing the grounds at the school. We were asked to support their request of a grant from Percent for Green. Stephanie Englesman, a nonpartisan rep on the Portland School Board for our district, gave her rundown on the schools closure situation.

On a lighter note, we learned about the nonprofit Portland Fruit Tree Project, pertinent this banner year of apples, plums, figs and persimmons hitting the ground in SE Portland. And news had just come in about Amazon's interest in delivering packages to customers via drones in Portland, a possibility we tossed around. Next month, for starters, we will be exploring more fully the need for street-corner daylighting.

For more detailed reports on HAND meetings, you can find the minutes on our website as soon as we have approved them. We meet every second Tuesday (not December or August) on the St. Philip Neri campus at 7 pm.

Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association
By David Petrozzi

Camus once said, "Autumn is a second Spring where every leaf is a flower," and this one sure has been special. Thank you everyone for making the second annual Mt. Tabor neighborhood yard sale a big success! Over 80 neighbors participated in the event, which drew plenty of visitors into our area over the course of the weekend. Early reports indicate a good time was had by...if not all, certainly most...and we're already looking forward to next year.

During our October meeting, PBOT liaison Sishanah Oppenheim delivered a thoughtful update regarding the ongoing 82nd Avenue Transit Design Project. This is a major redesign of an important traffic corridor featuring BAT lanes, new hydrogen buses, stop balancing, improved sidewalks/ADA ramps and much more in an overall effort to make public transit faster and more reliable. We also heard from a community member beginning to organize emergency preparedness efforts in our neighborhood. Her activities seek to promote community resilience by focusing on things within our personal control, especially to combat the pernicious pitfall of learned helplessness. One idea: simply start small with something practical like creating a home emergency supply kit, and then build up from there. Going forward, we'll be working in a more organized way with similar groups around town to provide opportunities for like minded neighbors to join together on this topic.

Monthly land use updates centered on a massive redesign currently in the planning process for SE 60th Ave. and Stark St. Current ideas include building row-homes that add up to 24 multifamily townhouse units. Community members expressed hope this development will proceed in a thoughtful way, with respect for irreplaceable old growth trees (several 100+ years old are on the lot), and proper attention paid to parking, traffic, pedestrian safety and preserving what makes Portland special.

MTNA meets on the second Wednesday each month, and you can join us in person at Taborspace or online via Zoom. Our next meeting will be November 11, 7-8:30 pm. Check out our website, mttaborpdx.org, to sign up and get more info.

Richmond Neighborhood Association
By Allen Field

The Richmond Neighborhood Association (RNA) Board met October 12 at Central Christian Church, 1844 SE 39th Ave. Meetings are the second Monday of the month, 7–9 pm, except January. Everyone is welcome 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.

Bill Cunningham, Bureau of Planning & Sustainability (BPS), explained the Inner Eastside Zoning Project. The city is in Phase 2 of a four-phase comprehensive eastside zoning analysis to update zoning to allow for more housing choices in the inner eastside, which will allow for more apartments throughout the area. Phase 3 will be a review of zoning alternatives, with a target date of Spring 2027. Phase 4 will be a discussion draft in Summer 2027. A zoning update proposal will be presented to Council in 2028. The project will include inventorying existing historic resources and working with PBOT to examine infrastructure improvements needed to support growth. In the Spring, Cunningham will report on the alternative zoning approaches BPS has identified.

Richmond resident Steve Holland gave a presentation on a proposal to close off SE 47th Ave. to form

continued on page 15

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Neighborhood Notes

from page 13

a cul de sac and connect the two sides of Ivon Park. The project could keep the site as a Portland park or convert it to a street plaza under the Bureau of Transportation. Significant outreach to neighbors with wide support was described. The RNA recommended that Parks & Rec and/or PBOT staff be invited to an RNA meeting to explain the process and public involvement requirements to modify the park or create a street plaza so that the RNA can assist in that process.

We are always in need of people to help deliver the quarterly Richmond News. If you are not receiving it, it's because there is no delivery person for the route where you live. Contact rnanewsletter@gmail.com if you want to help distribute the newsletter.

South Tabor Neighborhood Association
By Cathy Kudlick

Join your neighbors and make new friends at the South Tabor Neighborhood Association (STNA) in person at 7 pm on the third Thursday of the month. Thanks to the generosity of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, we now have a regular meeting place at 5415 SE Powell Blvd. In exchange, we ask neighbors to arrive with cans of food and other non-perishables to donate to their weekly food bank.

Recent STNA visitors have included representatives speaking for and against Portland's ballot measure 26-267. We also heard updates from TriMet about the new FX bus service planned to replace line 72, the city's busiest route.

Last but not least, we discussed the end-of-year happy hour that in recent years has filled in for December's regular meeting.

Bring your enthusiasm, your curiosity, your ideas and of course an unexpired can or two or three to our next in-person meeting, Thursday, November 19, 7 pm at St. Mark's.

To learn more about us (including through back issues of our quarterly newsletter, the South Tabor Crow) and to get on our low-traffic mailing list, visit southtabor.org.

SE Portland Schools Facing Changes Amid Districtwide Resizing

from page 1

riculum," he says. "The middle school is the capstone of our environmental program. This is something that the students are working toward starting in kindergarten. We've spent the last 22 years honing this journey, and for it to end without discussion feels insulting."

Sonja and Mike Brough, whose two sons attend Sunnyside, praise the positive attitude the school fosters toward neurodivergent students, and the location-based learning which brings Sunnyside students out into nature.

Creston's current program for students who are deaf or hard of hearing, run by Columbia Regional Inclusive Services (CRIS), will move to Glencoe Elementary. Sarah Horn has a second-grade son at Creston. "The CRIS kids are part of the school," she stresses. "They are in our classrooms. They have a long history at the school. My son's best friend is in the program. Why would PPS displace our most vulnerable kids? This will do so much more harm than good."

Creston's PTA recently hosted a meeting of parent representatives from SE Portland schools being targeted by the changes. Oregon State Senator Khanh Pham attended, along with PPS Board members Stephanie Englesman, Michelle DePass and Eddie Wang. Each school spoke to the challenges they face and identified issues the district should address before moving forward. There was broad agreement that the process has been rushed by PPS.

"Our biggest comments revolved around not having enough time to make informed decisions," says Lauren Shumaker, PTA president at Creston. "PPS continues to hold community engagement sessions and continues to NOT answer the questions we're asking at those sessions… PPS hasn't published any detailed plan that supports these transitions to the Board or to the public, so we have no information to review to ensure all elements are thought through thoroughly. "

Katie Morris, an early-childhood educator whose two children attend Glencoe and who is a member of the PTA there, is sure that the newcomers will get a warm welcome there—but she worries about the effect of the school moves on them and other affected kids. "Schools are so much more than buildings," she says. "They are the places where children find their people, where parents form friendships, where teachers become trusted adults and where neighborhoods build their identities. They are places of stability, belonging and connection."

Many ties will be broken, Morris is certain, under Scenario A or B. Like many others, she is calling on the PPS School Board to slow down, learn more and think deeply before implementing such drastic changes.

How to Avoid Food Waste Over the Holidays

from page 4

falls off the bones and then strain the mixture. Then add cooked noodles, carrots, celery, onions, herbs and salt and pepper to taste. Adding gravy to any holiday soup will add creaminess.

Mashed potatoes

Yesterday's mashed potatoes can be tomorrow's breakfast hash. Form the potatoes into patties and fry in butter to make potato cakes.

Mashed potatoes make great appetizers as a filling for stuffed mushrooms. Use up even more leftovers when substituting stuffing as a breadcrumb topping.

Squash

Pureed squash (butternut, acorn, pumpkin, sweet potato) pairs well in an autumn risotto. For something a little spicier, add curry powder, onions, garlic and coconut milk to cooked and pureed squash and you'll have a simple, but flavorful soup.

Cranberry sauce

Add leftover cranberry sauce and orange zest to any muffin recipe to create tangy and tart morning pastries.

Cranberries make an elevated appetizer when added to a wheel of brie cheese and wrapped in pie crust or a sheet of puff pasty.

This article was published in the Metro's Our Big Backyard quarterly magazine.

Jade District Residents Consider Future of Metro-Owned Property

from page 1

ment program funds housing and commercial projects near transit, not public parks. The property is within walking distance of the MAX Green Line and several bus routes, which make it an attractive area for housing. Metro has said that while housing projects can include green space, the amount ultimately depends on the project's financing and design.

"Green space competes with parking and housing units for the available space," Kuhnhausen said. "If affordable housing development is financed with tax credits, green spaces are typically reserved for residents' use with limited public access," she added.

As Metro weighs its options for the property, APANO is gathering resident feedback to help determine its recommendations for Metro. Suggestions have included children's play areas, trees, walking paths, gazebos and picnic tables.

"There is wide support for a public park with no housing, but there is also interest in affordable housing that can accommodate multigenerational families," said Alisa Kajikawa, APANO's Community Development Director.

The organization is exploring both a park-only proposal as well as combinations of housing and public green space. A recent pop-up engagement at Fubonn Shopping Center and community open house informed residents about the developments, and a community survey is scheduled to close on November 5. Following this, recommendations will be submitted to Metro and the agency will then incorporate community priorities into a statement of community values for its developer request for proposals. Residents can complete the survey at bit.ly/4zMVHMT.

Turning the property into a public park, however, is not without obstacles, especially financial ones.

Mahdak said that in July, PP&R interim director Art Pearce toured the proposed park site with him and APANO staff before convening meetings with city department and bureau leaders. City officials recognized the site's potential as a park, including the possibility of incorporating adjacent Bureau of Environmental Services land, Mahdak said, but funding for acquisition and development remains unavailable at this time. A March bureau memo estimated that maintaining the park could cost approximately $100,000 annually.

The memo also said that developing the site could take a decade or more given competing capital projects and a recent three-year pause in collecting System Development Charges from residential development. The bureau is also developing more than $15 million in potential budget reductions for fiscal year 2027, including $4.5 million in park maintenance cuts.

Mahdak said advocates have explored working with Columbia Land Trust, which expressed interest in potentially purchasing and holding the property until funding could be secured. According to Mahdak, the land trust would need a City Council resolution indicating the city's intent to take over the property later.

Other possibilities include future Metro grants, soil and water conservation district grants, tax-increment financing or city funding. However, none have yet established a plan for acquiring, developing and maintaining the park.

Unless a buyer steps forward to acquire the property for public green space, Metro's current plan remains affordable housing. For residents who have advocated for a park for years, making that vision a reality will depend on whether the city and its partners can secure the necessary funding.

Protecting Yourself From Scams

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up to date. Passwords should be strong (not easy to guess and using a variety of characters), changed regularly and not be shared with others. Additionally, two-factor authentication (when available) and using a password manager are recommended.

Both at home and in public, use a secure internet connection and wi-fi network. Open/public wi-fi networks may lack strong encryption and security controls, meaning devices and data can be exposed to scammers. Encrypted connections will show a lock symbol or "https" in the address bar to the left of the website address.

Be careful with links and attachments. Hovering over a link (without clicking on it) will show the URL that the link leads to. Taking a minute to think before clicking on a link may save headaches down the road. If there is any doubt, do not click on it. Like with links, attachments should be regarded with caution and should not be opened from a suspicious message.

While scammers are always finding new ways to deceive people, you don't have to fall victim to them. Pause and take a beat, even if the scammer is being tricky or intimidating. A bit of skepticism can go a long way.

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SOLD

6010 SE 14th Ave. — Last offered at
1956 Mid-Century — $1,295,000
3,862 Total Sq. Ft. — 3 BD, 4 BA

20920 S Ridge Rd. — $725,000
1990 Traditional — 3 BD, 2.1 BA
1,965 Total Sq. Ft.

6723 SE Ash St. — Buyer Represented
2008 Custom One-Level — 4 BD, 3 BA
2,643 Total Sq. Ft.

SOLD

7920 SE Hawthorne Blvd. — Last offered at
1941 Mid-Century — $649,900
2,472 Total Sq. Ft. — 3 BD, 3 BA

707 N Hayden Island Dr. — $619,900
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2,757 Total Sq. Ft.

SOLD

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Neighborhood Happenings:

Congratulations to Our Coloring Contest Winners!

A big thank you to all the participants in our annual coloring contest! Come swing by our office to see all the beautiful works of art displayed in our front window through mid-November. We have selected a winner from each age range that will be receiving a $30 gift card to Kids At Heart in the mail.

Our winners are:
Ages 1-5: Josephine J.
Ages 6-8: Ruby R.
Ages 9-12: Meryl B.

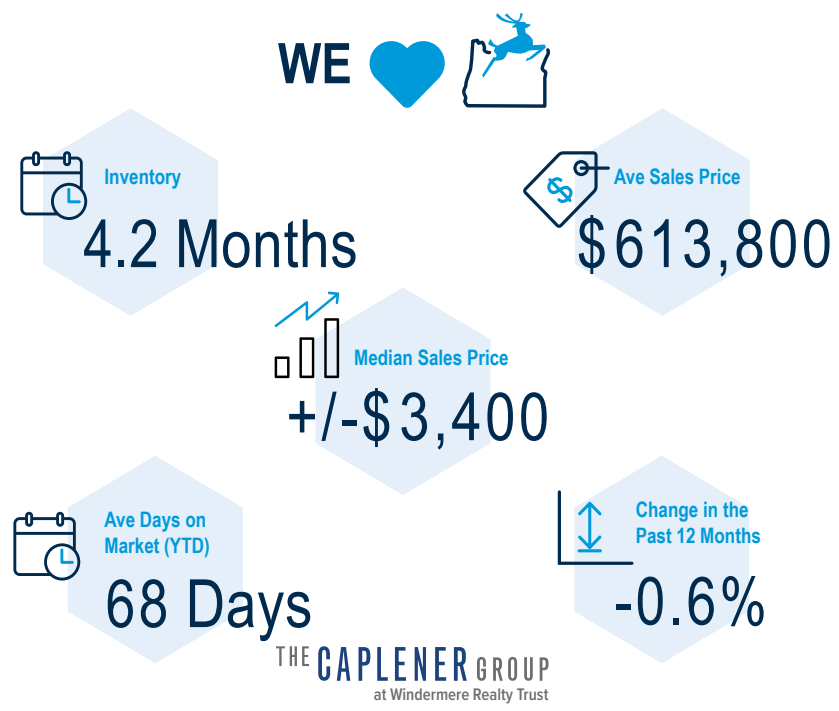
All the art was so great, we will be sending a $5 gift certificate to all of our participants. Congratulations to our winners, and thank you all for entering!

Portland Holiday Market

Friday, November 6-Sunday, November 8
Portland Expo Center
portlandholidaymarket.com

Join in for the fifth annual Portland Holiday Market! Get all your holiday shopping done early, visit Santa, participate in workshops or just enjoy a holiday beverage. See their website for ticket prices and more event info!

HOW'S THE PORTLAND MARKET DOING?



Data is courtesy of the RMLS.

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