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"Your Neighborhood News Source"

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Foes Blast Build Bill

BY MIDGE PIERCE

It's a tough time for state passage of tax plans, pension reforms and possibly emergency housing.

By the time you read this, a legislative bill nicknamed "Build Baby Build" may be history - or not. Either way, Oregon's low-cost housing crisis seems here to stay.

Push back on HB 2007 has come from citizens who see the measure as onerous "over-reach" that, under the guise of affordability, usurps local controls by mandating Infill in their neighborhoods.

Critics say it fails to ensure cost-effective housing, incentivizes demolition and hamstring historic districts. Reports indicate that more than 90 percent of written testimony has opposed it.

Developed as an affordable housing measure originally, HB 2007 was revised to allow market rate multi-housing in single family neighborhoods throughout Oregon. Powerful lobbies like the Homebuilders Association influenced the bill to speed permitting processes and, through amendments, allow less restrictive construction at whatever prices the market will bear.

HB 2007 has solid support from groups like 1000 Friends of Oregon whose local advocacy arm, Portland for Everyone, is a vocal backer of Infill Everywhere. Proponents claim the bill motivates construction that provides relief to the rent burdened. Policies that encourage developers to build up, not out, are touted as ways to prevent urban sprawl beyond growth boundaries.

The strong arm of House Speaker Tina Kotek is behind the bill, but her public chiding of opponents as exclusionary Nimbys galvanized critics who feel it will fuel rising values.

The frenzy will deliver displacement, not affordability, according to a representative of United Neighborhoods for Reform. Rising costs could push the

vulnerable out of homes - sometimes to the street.

With the legislative session nearing its end, citizens attending a hastily-called public hearing said their testimony got short-changed once again. (An earlier informational "panel" discussion appeared stacked with bill proponents.)

Called first, Legislative representatives lauded the bill for providing housing relief, speeding the permit process and providing clear, objective building standards (as opposed to design reviews).

One representative said it was the state's responsibility to motivate increased density because statewide mandates protect legislators from angry constituents at home. Representatives from boom towns like Ashland and Bend said everyone needs to share the burden of developing density to accommodate growth. "We all need to do our part to manage our resources," said a southern Oregon delegate.

Portland speakers claimed there is no housing crisis, just an affordability crisis. Decrying the bill as a "deeply malignant way to feed the market rate housing boom", a SE resident said too much new construction are cost prohibitive luxury units that sit vacant. Taking aim at Kotek for "poisoning the well" blaming Nimbyism for housing shortages, she blamed builder profiteering, adding that HB 2007 was a top-loaded market disaster.

Rod Merrick testified the bill would double the number of houses allowed in residential neighborhoods: "This bill makes single family zones illegal."

John Liu cited the demolition of 3000 small homes replaced with houses that cost, on average, twice the original. He said when developers buy a house for \$350K they replace it with one \$780K home or two for \$600 K.

Terry Parker warned that RIP city will live up to its name with this "bulldozer on steroids" destroying mature trees, green yards, open spaces and the American Dream. The fourth generation Oregonian

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Ringleader Willie Levenson encourages enjoyment and safety in the Willamette River

Reclaiming the Willamette River

BY NANCY TANNLER

This year's Big Float happens Saturday July 15. (See details on page 13) Hopefully this year's event won't take place on one of those cool, cloudy summer days here in the northwest. Nonetheless, advocates for swimming in the river won't have their spirits dampened by the weather.

There's no better spokesman for this than the events founder Willie Levenson.

Levenson held the first Big Float eight years ago and swimmers and floaters actually crossed the Willamette River. This inaugural crossing did not happen without years of preparation and a backstory that begins with his passion for water.

Willie Levenson said he took to water right away. He swam for the neighborhood subdivision swim team, the Fallsmead Sharks, in his hometown of Rockville, Maryland.

It was when he went to Radford, University in Radford Virginia and started swimming in the New River (Kanawha River) that the combination of swimming and nature first got a hold on him. "I fell in love with the river and when the other kids went home for the summer, I stayed so I could swim," Levenson said.

The river is part of the Ohio river watershed and flows for 360 miles through a portion of western Virginia in the Appalachian Mountains. It is one of the five oldest rivers in the world despite its name.

After college, the calling to go west landed him in Boise, Idaho. Here he resumed his love affair with the Boise River that runs through the heart of the city. People have direct access to the river for swimming, fishing, inner tubing and other water sports, thanks to the 25-mile Boise River Greenbelt and the clean water.

Then Willie decided to go even further west to Portland twenty years ago and was taken aback by the warnings to stay out of the Willamette River. How could a city that was touted as being green have a polluted river running through it with very little public access?

At this time the Big Pipe was being installed so the overflow sewage no longer spilled into the Willamette and the declaration of the Portland Harbor as a Superfund site in 2000 got industrial polluters to start to clean up their act.

Hearing people make jokes about never touching the polluted river for fear of death made Levenson want to do something about it.

He became inspired by Jay Boss Rubin and his Portland Challenge. The challenge was to bring a bunch of people together starting at The Slammer Tavern in SE and then en masse walk to the Willamette River and swim across. It was a fundraiser for different local causes and, over the four years the event happened, raised \$20k.

The book *From the Bottom Up* by turn to page 23

Citizens Rue Bath Idea

BY MIDGE PIERCE

Last month's conceptual depiction of thermal baths on Mt. Tabor caused quite a stir. At a Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association Meeting, landuse co-chair John Laursen called the notion frivolous because the reservoirs are National Historic Landmarks that should not - and actually can not - be altered that way.

In fact, the hillside between reservoirs five and six is a highly-regulated dam face required by the state to be fenced off to make it inaccessible to the public. Until the reservoirs were decommissioned, the dam housed a hydroelectric plant under the

protection of the federal government.

The reservoirs were decommissioned per a federal mandate. They remain under National Historic Register protections.

Laursen's overriding concern is that the public understand the significant work already underway to restore the reservoirs to their original distinction. Plans are based on preferences from a majority of citizens' surveyed several years ago.

The bath idea, according to Laursen, ignored a long, complex negotiation between citizens and the Water Bureau to preserve the integrity of the reservoirs and the view corridors designed by the Olm-

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SE Updates

At the corner of 76th & SE Stark where Beet's Auto Repair once existed, developer Randy Rapaport is proposing a "work-force housing" project. He presented his idea to the Montavilla Neighborhood Association on Thursday, June 22. This discussion will also be on the agenda for the METBA luncheon meeting on July 11 from 12 - 1:30 pm at the Flying Pie Pizzeria, 78th & SE Stark.

David Beet was present at the meeting to explain his rapid departure from the neighborhood due to health reason and to lend his support to the project.

Rapaport's intention is to create a public / private partnership with the City of Portland to develop a mixed use building with a 4,500 square foot grocery store on the ground level and 60 apartment units above. The plan includes 25 parking spaces - 10 for shoppers and 15 spaces for residents.

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Population growth conversation continues

By NANCY TANNLER

Earth's growing population hasn't been in the forefront of the news about sustainability and quality as much as it was in the 60s and 70s. Zero population growth was a constant mantra and the people of the US and other countries took this seriously. The number of children per family we have is on average 1.88.

A recent article in the *New York Times* (nytimes.com/2017/06/15/opinion/sunday/remember-the-population-bomb-its-still-ticking.html) is a reminder that this is a subject of grave concern for earth activists who continue to monitor this growth.

At a seminar sponsored by Investments for Developing Communities (IDC), this serious issue was the focus of the evening presentation. IDC is a grassroots 501C3 non-profit that provides education sponsorships for girls and micro-loans to women in developing countries and organic garden education to school children in Portland.

John Seager, president of Population Connection (formerly Zero Population Growth or ZPG) spoke of his organization's goal of ensuring that every woman around the world who wants to delay or end childbearing has access to health services and contraceptive supplies.

Because the current administration is enforcing the Gag Rule*, women around the world are in danger of losing funding from the US for these services.

Most women in third world countries would choose to have fewer children if given the option. With the help of organizations like Population Connection, there have been 52 million fewer pregnancies and 24 million fewer abortions since foreign aid has been available to these women.

In the past, the Gag Rule had been applied to U.S. family planning funding, this new version expands the restrictions to all global health funding and billions of dollars in U.S. aid will be affected.

The Global Health, Empowerment, and Rights (HER) Act is a push-back introduced in the Senate by Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and in the House by Representative Nita Lowey (D-NY). This Act would create a permanent, legislative repeal of the Global Gag Rule.

Seager encouraged people to check out the website populationconnectionaction.org/fight4her for a better understanding of what is at stake right now.

Population Connection offers classes for children and adults to better educate themselves about positive steps to ensure a future for everyone.

Project Director Suzanne York for Transition Earth spoke about the aims of her organization to increase awareness on the effects of population growth and unsustainable economic growth on people and the planet.

Their mission is to promote human rights and nature's right through education and they are active in countries from Ethiopia to Indonesia to Nepal.

The organization uses population, health and environment development models or PHE that simultaneously addresses the need for healthcare and family planning while helping communities manage natural resources.

The Project believes

obsessive economic growth and consumerism is unsustainable. They advocate for a system that enables a shift to sustainable economic growth and a transition to new economies and this would include a shift in consciousness the includes the rights of nature. They believe all life forms have a right to exist.

Transition Earth maintains the discussion isn't just about people deciding whether or not to have children; it's about being aware of all the factors that come into play when making that decision. See transition-earth.org for more.

IDC has started an ongoing group, separate from the non-profit Investments for Developing Communities (IDC), to address the issues of overpopulation and overconsumption. Founder Liza Whitridge and Shari Sokel are holding brainstorming sessions to strategize on the best approach to creating a public awareness campaign surrounding this sensitive subject.

Linking overconsumption to overpopulation is in itself the result of recent exchanges here in Portland with people who feel a single-minded approach to the issue of overpopulation is one-sided. Indeed, it's probably quite obvious to most of us that, to create global population and environmental sustainability, work needs to address both issues. Lofty plans, but if it can be done with organic food, gay marriage, and pot legalization, why can't we make curbing production (of people and things) a desirable goal?

The first official group meeting was held in early June in SE. The next one is scheduled for Thursday July 20 at 5:30 pm, call Lisa Whitridge, 971.400.2181 or lisa@idcempowers.org for location or information.

**The Gag Rule bars any U.S. funding for foreign non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that use their own, non-U.S. funds to offer abortion services, counseling or referrals related to abortion, or political advocacy around the issue of abortion.*

Better Housing by Design

By DON MACGILLIVRAY

Housing in Portland is in crisis. Not only the lack of affordable housing, but the affect market rate housing has on changing neighborhoods, displacing people, and in general, making the city less desirable for people who have lived here for many years.

Local government cannot do very much about it other than write aspirational plans and watch while landowners and developers change the older cityscape. Politics won't allow government to create an ideal city even if there could be agreement about what this would be.

Private development and business interests are perhaps

the strongest lobby within local government and many of their policy positions come from even stronger national interests.

While local government representatives wish this was not the case, their hands are tied politically. They cannot create a kinder and more representative city that functions economically and socially in the best interests of everyone.

One of the best ways of making the public case for a better city is though the urban planning process. Portland has a planning methodology that includes a wide range of interests that understand the difference between good planning and a problematic urban environment.

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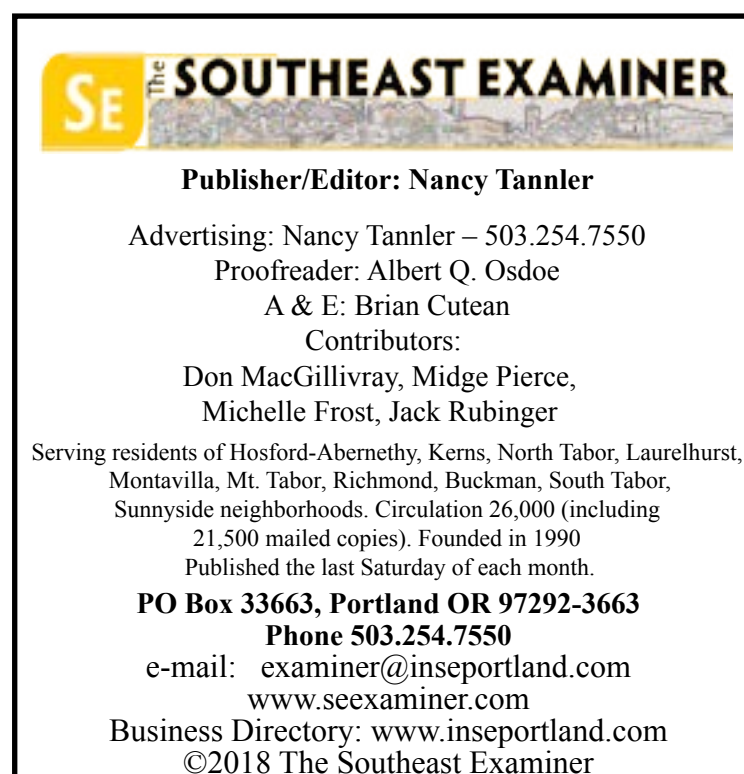


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A Fine Rug Story

BY JACK RUBINGER

Abbasi Fine Rugs, the only Persian rug shop on the east side of Portland, is located at SE 32nd and Belmont St. but its roots stretch back to ancient Persia.

Omar Abbasi and his partner, Alexandra, are working to bring Persian tradition and heritage here in a way that is accessible and affordable to everyone.

They specialize in antique Persian rugs, but not the typical rugs you find at big box retailers. "All of our rugs are hand-knotted, one-of-a-kind, antique pieces. They are all made using naturally sourced vegetable and mineral dyes on hand spun wool. The intricate workmanship and traditional techniques breathe true in our product," said Alexandra.

Omar began his career working in his family's rug business and moved to Portland about 13 years ago. He then spent a few years with a large retailer that dealt with all kinds of rugs. Omar's passion is in the history and value of older rugs so when they couple felt ready to take the leap, they decided to open a different kind of shop.

"You can literally walk on history" said Omar, who spun a few tales of his own about his rugs' origins. The shop has rugs featuring the tree of life, rugs created by nomadic peoples traveling with their sheep and a



Omar Abbasi

rug depicting a scene from the Persian poem The Rubaiyat by Omar Khayyam, just to name a few.

Omar and Alexandra offer tribal geometric and floral patterns, with rugs over 150 years old from Iran, Morocco, Turkey, India and other exotic locales at an affordable price point and in a wide variety of sizes and shapes.

A 4x6 rug, on average, would sell for \$150 - \$450. A 5x8 to 8x10 could range from \$500 - \$1200. Larger or more rare rugs may be priced higher, but affordability is always the Abbasi's main priority. Some are collectible, and all are definitely meant for everyday enjoyment in living rooms, offices, entry ways - even bathrooms and kitchens because they're so well made and durable.

"Affordable rugs is the mission," said Omar. "We work with direct importers and we don't buy in bulk. We select rugs one by one and make sure we only get the pieces we really want. This approach is more affordable than dropping tens of thousands on each shipment. We get new rugs every 1-3 weeks, so shoppers can always look forward to new options."

One thing that comes to my mind when I think of Persian rugs is the prominence of the color red. Omar explained that the red symbolizes fire which permeates ancient religious beliefs. A large blue rug, shades of green and bright oranges also stood out

during a recent tour of the store.

When asked about their target market, the couple said, "Anyone who has ever wanted a Persian rug is our ideal customer. Many people believe that Persian rugs are not available in their budget and we aim to provide them the opportunity.

"Others have collected before and are looking for that special piece to further their appreciation for the art form."

They find that their clientele are eager to learn about the history, craftsmanship and culture. The couple love to share their experience and knowledge with everyone.

Omar explained that people usually look for rugs when

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1930's Qashgi by Bidjar weavers. Rams horn or hands or hips design of fertility and strength.

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Neighborhood Notes

South Tabor

By Sandra Hay Magdaleno

STNA had a very successful street litter clean up with over 20 volunteers picking up litter on SE Division, SE 72nd, SE Powell, SE Woodward and other major through streets. Thank you all for volunteering. Thank you Duane, President of STNA, for organizing. Thank you Tin Le, at Division Street Dental on 76th and SE Division for providing the official litter pick up rendezvous site.

At the June STNA meeting, Dean Winter with St Marks Church on 54th and SE Powell came to let us know some of their community involvement projects and willingness to serve the community along with STNA.

A Q&A by Joe Tursi with the Richmond South Tabor Sewer Repair Project reported sewer repairs will start later this summer. If you'd like more details go to: portlandoregon.gov/bes/68185.

Dante Haruna from Coalition for Healthy Kids spoke about a proposed ballot measure placed on the November 2017 ballot. The measure is asking for a distribution tax of 1.5 cents per ounce on sugary drinks such as soda, energy drinks, sugary teas and juices. The tax would generate approximately \$28 Million to fund local pre-schools, physical activities and nutritional initiatives. For more information, email: healthykidsandeducation@gmail.com.

The land use committee recommended to the board to endorse, encourage and recommend that Tri-Met commit to purchasing battery electric buses for the Division Transit Project for numerous reasons, which include lowering the carbon impact and noise of the highly used route and to bring Tri-Met more in alignment with city and county land use policies and plans. STNA approved a SE Uplift Board Advocacy Request and a letter to Tri-Met General Manager, Neil McFarlane encouraging an aggressive commitment to battery electric buses for the Division Transit Project, Support this effort, by emailing: landuse@southtabor.org for information.

Don't forget Harvest Fest Sunday, September 10, noon to 4 pm at Trinity Fellowship. Delicious apple cider and yummy barbecued corn on the cob will be available along with the delightful sharing of plants and tools, along with music, vendors, information sites, face painting and more. We look forward to seeing you and your friends and neighbors in September.

Many thanks go to Trinity Fellowship for their generous use of their meeting rooms and storage and use of the site for large events. The next Land Use, Sustainability and Communications committee meeting will be held Tuesday, July 18, at 7 pm and the next STNA Board meeting will be Thursday, July 20, at 7 pm all at Trinity Fellowship, 2700 SE 67th Ave. with entrance from parking in the rear of the building.

Richmond

By Rob Mumford and Allen Field

The Richmond Neighborhood Association held its monthly meeting June 12 at Waverly Heights Church at SE 33rd and Woodward St. RNA meetings are held in the church basement; enter from the east-side door. For additional info visit richmondpx.org.

Elections were held with 8 new members added to the Richmond Board of Directors. Incumbents Erik Matthews and Brendon Haggerty retained their board seats and newcomers Susan Beal, Jessica Gillard, Brian Holchalter, Adam Meltzer, Rob Mumford, and Lauren Scher joined the board as well.

The chair position will continue under the leadership of Erik Matthews with Jessica Gillard serving as vice-chair. Current board member Jonathan King remains as Treasurer and lastly, the secretary duties will be co-shared by Allen Field and Rob Mumford.

By unanimous vote, the general members passed an amendment to the Bylaws to allow the Bylaws to be amended at other times of the year besides the General Membership/Elections meeting. Before the Board can discuss presenting proposed amendments to the membership for approval by 2/3 vote, 7 days notice of the proposed amendment must be sent to the RNA's email list and posted to the website. If the Board votes to present the amendment to the General Membership for vote, then such vote requires 21 day notice of the proposed amendment and 2/3 vote of the general members present to pass the amendment.

The Board voted to send a letter to PBOT requesting it to look into pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements at the SE 50th and Division intersection and to report back to the Board of possible improvements.

Jonathan King reported the Richmond Cleanup had a record number of households using it. The U-Price-It Sale

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CN

Community News

Improve the places you love

Have you noticed invasive plants like Ivy and Blackberry bushes popping up along your favorite trails, and rivers? Have you seen discarded cups, cans and other trash covering your favorite beaches and parks? We have a solution.

This fall, on September 23, thousands of Oregon volunteers will come together for the SOLVE Beach & Riverside Cleanup, presented by the Oregon Lottery.

They're ready to help out at a hands-on project, removing litter and invasive plants from neighborhoods, parks and natural areas. SOLVE is ready to help you plan an event to improve the

part of Oregon you love best.

The group provides free training, free supplies and even small grants to help support coordinators. They'll assist with project planning and volunteer recruitment.

Enjoy the outdoors while making a difference this fall as a SOLVE leader at the Beach & Riverside Cleanup, presented by the Oregon Lottery on September 23.

Submit your project application by July 20 using this link: bit.ly/brcsignup or by contacting SOLVE at 503.844.9571 ext. 317 or emailing joy@solveoregon.org.

Street camping and park camping

In regards to a neighbors concerns about street camping by Laurelhurst Park, Georgia West, Sr. Administrative Specialist Portland Parks & Recreation provided the following information.

Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) does not have jurisdiction over City streets or rights-of-way, such as those near Laurelhurst – their purvey only extends to areas in the actual park. PBOT does have such jurisdiction. Here is PBOT's info page for you to send any future concerns regarding them: portlandoregon.gov/transportation/article/319727

Portland Park Rangers visit Laurelhurst Park daily, on a given day this time of year, there are around eleven Rangers on duty citywide. There are more than 200 parks and natural areas covering more than 11,000 acres.

If you see instances of park rule violations (in the park itself), make a report to the Portland Park Ranger hotline at 503.823.1637. Specific to issues around homelessness, use the Mayor's One Point of Contact system: portlandoregon.gov/toolkit/article/562214, noting that it is helpful to have very specific location information, not just photos. For emergency situations, such as a crime in progress, call 911.

PP&R (as well as the City of Portland as a whole) is impacted by many issues with people who are experiencing homelessness. Many people are living in one of PP&R's properties. None of the parks or natural areas are designed for people to live or camp in. The great number of parks, and their acreage and accessibility makes them appealing to visit, yet challenging to patrol.

People move on from living in a park or natural area, only to return or relocate nearby a short time later. The first thing Park Rangers do when they conclude someone is living outdoors is to offer to connect them to social services so they can get needed help. Enforcement is one resource Rangers have at their disposal, but education and assistance are very helpful tools too.

As Parks Commissioner Amanda Fritz and Portland Police have repeatedly noted, enforcement alone is most definitely not a long-term solution. This is an ongoing issue and is expected to remain so; camps appear, they are addressed. People living there may leave but often soon return. The City continues to try to figure out a more sustainable solution to the issues around camping on public lands.

Please note that unless a camp is hazardous, that by law, City staff must issue notices to people living on public lands to vacate; but are required to wait between 24 hours and seven days to enforce action.

This is a fact not many folks are aware of; and they may wonder why a camp is not taken down immediately after being encountered.

WRITE AROUND PORTLAND workshops at HOTLIPS Pizza, 2211 SE Hawthorne Blvd. You can simply drop in or register beforehand online at writearound.org to let us know you're coming. Workshops are held 3rd Thursdays and most last Sundays from 9 -11 am. Upcoming July workshop dates: Thursday, July 20, Sunday, July 30. A sliding-scale workshop fee of \$10-\$30 helps support our free traditional workshops in partnership with social service agencies and other organizations throughout the year.



Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability reports unique artwork is surfacing on public trash cans in the Jade District. The art was revealed at the recent “Make Jade Glitter, Pick up the Litter” celebration.

“With a ceremonial toss of the first soda can into the recyclables compartment of a new public trash can — Jade District leaders, SOLVE and staff from the City of Portland celebrated the new Public Trash Can pilot project in this diverse East Portland neighborhood,” posts BPS.

The cans feature art inspired by the Jade District Vision Plan and created by Hamilton Rodriguez, a neighborhood artist. The event featured a litter cleanup activity and a storytelling session by BPS’ Alfredo Gonzalez, a native of Peru, on the importance of a clean community environment. – MP

PP&R Summer Free for All

The PP&R program includes 35 Summer Lunch and Playground sites where they expect to again serve more than 110,000 free lunches across the city helping to fill the summer meal gap for children who get free and reduced lunches during the school year.

The Summer Lunches + Playgrounds program includes NINE mobile playground sites; bringing lunches and recreation to children at apartment complexes, in neighborhoods where there aren't yet enough parks and playgrounds. This is the first year that the Mobile Playgrounds program will offer free lunches.

37 Concerts in the Park

40 Movies in the Park

Free swimming lessons

Recycling tip–summer beverages

By BONITA DAVIS, MASTER RECYCLER and SUNNYSIDE RESIDENT

July! The true start of summer in Oregon, and time to play hard while the sun is shining.

Hiking, biking, sports, beach time, festivals all lead to consuming more beverages. On-the-go, these cans, cups and bottles can pile up.

This summer, we can change that by focusing on the first two “R’s” of **Reduce, Re-Use** and **Recycle**. It is as simple as bringing along a durable cup or bottle when leaving home. Reuse, is even more energy efficient than recycling because we save on the costs associated with transportation and reduce the energy required for processing and new packaging. Please continue to Recycle, but add Reduce and ReUse to the mix.

Reusing your own water bottle or coffee mug can result in impressive savings. For example, one to-go coffee drink per person per day can lead to 23 lbs of non-recyclable plastic coated paper cups in the landfill. One travel mug can stop that.

In the U.S., we go through about 50 billion water bottles per year, with some 38 billion of those not even recycled, but finding their way into the waste stream to the landfill.

It's easy to stay hydrated while enjoying our much anticipated warm weather.

Here are some ideas:

- Start with your own refillable water bottle. Fill it at home with filtered water if that

is a concern, and figure out some easy ways to remember to bring it along. Mine stays next to my house keys.

- Invest in a to-go travel coffee mug, thermos, or cup. New or used, they can cost from less than \$1 to more than \$25. Keep several ready with your bike gear, backpack, bag or car console.

- Visit coffee shops that give a discount for BYOC (bringing your own cup). Use durables for dine-in service. Recycling Advocates, a local non-profit dedicated to creating a sustainable future through local efforts to reduce, reuse and recycle, is locating these shops. Find a location near you at: recyclingadvocates.org/single-use-coffee-cup-reduction. Put that good idea into an action by signing up for their Coffee Cup Pledge and move closer to being part of the solution.

- Ask for your drink, “for here.” Any coffee; hot, cold, plain or fancy, can be served in a durable glass or ceramic mug, or in your travel container in most coffee shops. Consider actually taking a break to sit back and relax. Say no to straws and lids if you don't need them.

- Beer and cold brew coffee can be purchased in refillable, reusable growlers, reducing the number of containers. Try out having your wine bottles refilled at some local wine shops.

Enjoying the summer activities while going easy on our natural resources, are a good pairing.

Think of the difference a simple action or two can make!

BB

BUSINESS BEAT

ABBASI FINE RUGS - Owner Omar Abbasi and his partner, Alexandra Brennan Abbasi, have opened a Persian Rug shop, 3150 SE Belmont St. Omar's mission is to set prices so that they are attainable and you can have something unique and timeless. Omar's family lineage traces back to the Abbasi dynasty in ancient Persia and there's even a popular motif named for them. Abbasi Fine Rugs is open Tues - Sunday from 10 am–6 pm. Stop on in and say hello.

ARCADIA RETIREMENT is opening a new assisted living building in the SE Portland area. The community is located at 13031 SE Foster Rd. Contact them for their move in specials at 503.206.8930 to make appointments for more information and tours of the new building.

BEGINNING CALLIGRAPHY CLASSES forming in South Tabor. Learn the versatile art of Italic lettering in a small class setting. Morning classes 7/25 and 8/1 from 10 am - 1 pm. Evening classes 7/26 and 8/2 from 6 - 9 pm. Please call or text 503.432.1021 for more information and to register.

HANDS ON COOKING classes by Oh Honey Cookery. Fun, relaxed classes around SE Portland. Specializing in New Orleans cuisine using quality ingredients. We will enjoy the fruits of our labor! See website for more information or call Bonnie at 503.432.1021.

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CN

Community News

Mt. Tabor Park events

Wednesday, July 5 – Evening Bicycle Circuit Races. The last race in River City Bicycles and Oregon Bicycle Racing Association's popular annual racing series. The first race is at 5:45 pm. For a complete schedule, visit mttaborseries.com.

Tuesday's Evening Summer Concerts – Tuesday evenings starting July 11 (no concert on 4th of July). Kids' activities start at 6 pm, concerts start at 6:30. Parking is limited! Lots of bike racks. Purchase dinner at one of the many local food vendors. Alcohol is allowed (in moderation) in the caldera only. Dogs are allowed in the canine balcony only. Free.

Sunday, July 16 – Tree I.D. Walk. Join Bob Rogers on the third Sunday of every month as he leads visitors on a tour of some of the park's most notable trees. Meet at the Visitor Center at 2 pm rain or shine. Free.

Saturday, July 29 – Weed Warriors Habitat Restoration, 9 am – noon. Join Mt. Tabor volunteers on the last Saturday of the month from May–October as they restore health to the park by removing invasive plant species. Meet at the Visitor Center by the main parking lot. Wear durable long pants and long sleeve shirt. If you arrive late, there will be information at the sign-in table regarding the group's whereabouts.

Saturday, July 29 – Moana, Free Movie at Warner Pacific College. Movie begins at dusk with live music and pre-movie entertainment beginning at 6:30 pm, including free popcorn.

Loss considered shameful

By MIDGE PIERCE

the Washington High.”

Four-plus acres have long been set-aside for that promised but never-delivered community center that would include swim facilities. The nearest pool is nearly five miles from inner Southeast. With Buckman pool closed and no nearby alternative in sight, families with children and residents with physical therapy needs are left high and dry.

Irate citizens suspect a \$12 million set-aside for the project has been shifted to East Portland instead. “They’re getting the parks, but we’re getting the density,” said a resident who calls the inner Eastside “park deficient”. He says parks in the area have been lacking for 30 years and the situation will only get worse as development continues.

Citizen estimates of unspent SDCs run as high as \$60 million, much of which they believe has been generated by massive growth in Southeast. “SDC money should be spent where it has greatest impact,” said a weary activist. “Southeast needs breathing room as the City gets denser. I don’t understand why they say they don’t have the money when they do.”

The possibility that the City will revisit the issue is remote. Neighbors holding hope for reconsideration believe that continued pressure matters.

One says the loss of the 1.31 acres may raise awareness of how little open space the Central Eastside retains.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY 2017 AT TABOR HEIGHTS CHURCH at 6161 SE Stark St. to celebrate. Bring a salad or desserts to share at the Potluck, singing Christmas carols around the Christmas tree, playing games in the field, joining in the liquid snow ball fight and having a merry visit with your neighbors. Sunday July 16 after church around 12:30 pm. Free to bring a canned food donation for SnowCap–a Local Food Pantry ministry.

FOR A FUTURE TO BE POSSIBLE: THE WISDOM OF INTERBEING – A talk with Anh-Huong and Thu Nguye, August 2 at 7 pm at the Unity of Portland, 4525 SE Stark. How do we keep our hearts open during these challenging times, grow our loving kindness with so much division, and be true to ourselves during a time of turmoil? Mindfulness practice and the insight of interbeing are the basis for transforming ourselves and creating harmony. Mindfulness relieves suffering because it is filled with understanding and compassion. Anh-Huong and Thu Nguyen have been practicing mindfulness in the tradition of the Zen master Thich Nhat Hanh for 30 years. They have led mindfulness retreats in the United States since 1988 and in 1992 were among the first students to be ordained as meditation teachers by Thich Nhat Hanh. In 1998, the couple moved to Woodstock, Vermont to help start the first Mindfulness Practice Center in Plum Village tradition. By the end of 1998, after returning home in Northern Virginia, they founded the Mindfulness Practice Center of Fairfax. This is their first visit to the West Coast.

CREATIVE WRITING CLASS FOR WOMEN – Explore the depths of your imagination and memory. Write from prompts that may lead to new poems, stories, personal essays and other creative pieces. All experience levels are welcome to join this encouraging group. Mondays, July 3 - August 7, TaborSpace, 5441 SE Belmont. \$12 to drop in for a class or \$60 for all 6 weeks. Taught by Pushcart-nominee Linda Ferguson. For information, email ljdferguson@gmail.com.

CELEBRATE SHABBAT and the beauty of the Portland summer. For the sixth year in a row, Rabbi Ariel Stone and Congregation Shir Tikvah invites everyone to bring a picnic and to enjoy live music, challah and dancing. There are two family friendly opportunities to enjoy: Laurelhurst Park on July 7 at 6 pm and Fernhill Park on August 11 at 6 pm.

HAWTHORNE DIABETES GROUP – How to Build a Power Salad - July 20, 7-8:30 pm, 2828 SE Stephens St. July is the heart of salad season. Gardens and markets are overflowing with fresh produce. Salads can have a bad rap as being boring and not filling though a “power salad” meal can be delicious, nutritious, and satisfying. Melissa Olson, MS in Nutrition, demonstrates how to make customized power salads using greens, beans, grains, and more. She'll discuss various salad dressing recipes as well as purchasing and storing techniques. This is an evening of hands-on learning and tasty samples you won't want to miss. \$15 donation requested (to cover the cost of supplies). No one will be turned away. RSVP through meetup.com/Hawthorne-Diabetes-Group/ or by contacting Julia Hanfling at julia@3peachesnutrition.com / 503.504.5050

PODCAST about proposed Eastmoreland Historic District – Resident Amy Rosenberg started this podcast to provide both sides of the situation. The upcoming deadline is August 3. The podcast series can be found at veracityagency.com/blog/streettalk-podcast.

WALKING TOURS – The Architectural Heritage Center, 701 SE Grand Ave., presents walking tours of historic and architecturally significant neighborhoods and sites around Portland. Throughout much of the year you can find AHC tours on Tuesdays, Thursdays, or Saturdays. They are able to provide private group walking tours. Be advised that all of the scheduled tours run rain or shine. Knowledgeable, trained, volunteer guides welcome you to learn more about our area's history and architecture. Check the schedule at VisitAHC.org or call 503.231.7264.

Keep on the Sunnyside Mural Project

By TIFFANY CONKLIN, DIRECTOR OF THE PORTLAND STREET ART ALLIANCE

Portland Street Art Alliance (PSAA) is a local non-profit that activates public space and engages with communities by creating, documenting and promoting vibrant art in the streets.

In 2015, PSAA restored the iconic Art Fills the Void! banana mural at SE 12th and Division. PSAA has managed the annual Sunnyside Piazza repaint event for the past two years.

This summer, with the support of SE Uplift's Small Community Grants Program, the group will organize a local team of artists to design and paint a new mural to honor the rich history of the Sunnyside Neighborhood and Belmont District.

PSAA wants to hear from you too. Do you have unique stories about Sunnyside or Belmont history, have old photos or artifacts? visit the project's website or email PSAA (info@pdxstreetart.org).

This mural will be over 100 feet long and include

10 panels, each representing significant pieces of Sunnyside history, from its early Native American and pioneer histories, its historic built environment, unique transportation history, iconic local landmarks, prominent businesses and places of worship, and its dynamic cultures of art and sustainability.

Consider supporting the project, by donating to the GoFundMe (gofundme.com/keeponthesunnyside) or contacting PSAA directly. All donations are tax-deductible!

The Mural Project culminates with a mural celebration event, where the community can come together to celebrate its proud history as Portland's first streetcar-era development and its bright future as a neighborhood dedicated to strong social ties, sustainability, and colorful streets.

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- Pastini Pastaria** 2027 SE Division St. Enjoy \$4 Sangria, \$3 Draft Beers and Free Italian soda for kids under 12
- Clinton Street Theater** 2522 SE Clinton St. Step inside our cool, dark theater for a trip back in time. Free cartoons and popcorn from 10-4. Poster/DVD sale under the marquee.
- Lucky Horseshoe** 2524 SE Clinton St. Food and drink specials! Open at 11 am
- Off the Waffle** 2601 SE Clinton St. FREE Mini Waffle Samples on Street Fair Day. Bring your receipt from any other Clinton Street Business for a special discount with your order!
- Cloud 9 Comics** 2621 SE Clinton St. Huge sale to help celebrate the Division & Clinton St. Fair. 9 am to 7 pm
- Piccolina** 2700 SE 26th Ave. Annual 50% off sidewalk sale, free face painting & free crafting station by Art ala Carte.
- People's Food Co-op** 3029 SE 21st Ave. Join us for a free vegetarian barbecue from 12-3 pm in front of the store, featuring veggies from Organically Grown Company!
- Eb and Bean** 3040 SE Division St. Sampling from our new Oregon craft chocolate and confection shop, Little Nib!
- Inhabit** 3121 SE Division St. A fun party with free shaved ice, photo booth, balloons and lots of great Inhabit swag
- Whiskey Soda Lounge** 3131 SE Division St. Whiskey Soda Lounge beer garden tent party. 4-6pm.
- For Paws** 3340 SE Division St. We'll be hosting an adoption event with Underdog Railroad Rescue, selling doggo froyo and there's free treats for cats and cake for dogs!
- Carter & Rose** 3601 SE Division St. All lighting at 25% off and free clay giveaways!
- Collage** 3701 SE Division St. FREE canvas backpack craft + HUGE sidewalk sale with items 50-75% off
- Division Hardware** 3734 SE Division St. Events, prizes and giveaways for kids and adults! Unveiling of the new Best Rewards Program.
- Ridgeline Clinic** 3735 SE Division St. Bluegrass Music and Chair Massage 12 pm - 3 pm
- Village Merchants** 4035 SE Division St. Sidewalk Sale
- Portland Eye Care** 4133 SE Division St. Special on Eclipse Viewing Glasses for \$3 a pair with all proceeds donated to the Richmond Elementary School Foundation. View the Eclipse on August 21!

NN Neighborhood Notes

from page 5

and Plant Sale had record revenue, which funds the movie in Sewallcrest Park: O'Brother Where Art Thou, August 26. The Cleanup Committee is discussing ways to avoid problems experienced this year caused by the delay in getting replacement drop boxes and the excess of material at the U-Price-It Sale. Suggestions are getting more drop-boxes earlier, closing the U-Price-It sale earlier for receiving stuff, and prohibiting couches and mattress/box springs. The next RNA meeting will be on Monday, July 10, at Waverly Heights Congregational Church (basement), 3300 SE Woodward St., from 7-9 pm.

Buckman

By Susan Lindsay

Breaking News!! This year's annual, totally fun, Buckman Picnic in the Park, has been 'rescheduled' to Sunday, September 17, 3 - 7 pm, due to the ongoing construction of the new Colonel Summers Splash Pad. The Buckman neighborhood picnic is a free event open to all. A delicious barbecue meal is served and there's live music, kid's activities as well as cool door prizes.

They'll be a bouncy house and hopefully another visit from "Rojo", the Therapy Llama llama, and perhaps even the "Belmont Goats". This year, we have the pleasure to also include the Grand Opening Celebration of the new Splash Pad at the picnic! Volunteers are needed to help with this year's picnic: food serving, kids activities, set-up/cleanup, donations, door prize solicitation from local businesses and general organizing.

The next BCA Picnic Team organizing meeting will be held, Thursday, July 20, 7 pm at the County Bldg., 501 SE Hawthorne Blvd. All are welcome. We can't host this free, fun, kid-friendly party without you!

To volunteer as individuals, groups or as organizations, contact "Rie Nakata", the BCA Picnic Volunteer Coordinator, rie@kanemasu.us. Rie will assign a time slot, and let you know how you can help. Donations are needed of cash, services and goods. These are appreciated and are completely tax deductible. Send checks made out to "SEUL for Buckman Picnic 2017", SE Uplift, 3534 SE Main St., Portland, OR 97214.

To donate goods or services, contact the BCA Picnic Team: buckmanpicnicateam@googlegroups.com. Sponsors get oodles of "splashy" recognition in all picnic pre-post publicity, on banners, flyers and sign boards and at the event from the mic.

At the June 8 BCA meeting, the Board elected two new Board members, Jeffrey Yasskin and Gavin White, while we bid farewell and a hearty 'thank you' to departing members, Nate Smith and Laren Leland.

The regular July 13 General Meeting of the BCA will be held, 7 - 9 pm, in the Mult. County Board Room. Social time at the Lucky Lab Hawthorne to follow. This month we'll consider a request for the Association to endorse the new "Soda Tax Initiative". Please contact the Buckman Board to request inclusion on the monthly agenda. buckmanboard@googlegroups.com / buckmanpdx.org

Mt. Tabor

By Laura Smith

MTNA's successful lobbying with City Commissioners and the Mayor's office kept the monies in the city budget promised for Mt. Tabor reservoir maintenance and preservation. Several preservation projects are currently moving forward. Work to repair the deterioration of Reservoir 1, built in the 1890s, will begin this summer. The chain-link fence between Reservoirs 5 and 6 will be removed and replaced with a more historically appropriate fence.

Portland Water Bureau will soon change the Mt. Tabor reservoir disconnect website to a website about the reservoirs' restoration activities which will feature a list of projects underway and will include a page about the interpretive program. There will be a place for people to upload information, pictures and stories about the historic reservoirs and the gravity-fed water system in which they've played a big part.

Portland Parks and Recreation's Mt. Tabor Maintenance Yard is the city's central park maintenance facility and it is currently undergoing much-needed renovation. The project includes changes, both temporary and permanent. One of the changes is adding a multi-modal path passing by the Maintenance Yard and providing access from SE Division St. into the south side of Mt. Tabor Park.

Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church is fundraising for their five-year plan for repair and maintenance projects needed for the historic building that includes TaborSpace. Mark your calendars for their 125th Anniversary Auction to be held on November 18. For more info, go to taborspace.org.

The Division Transit Project is moving forward despite a general feeling among Mt. Tabor neighbors that the transit project will not resolve traffic issues and might even make traffic worse. Get more information at the Division Transit Project Open House on Thursday, June 29, from 5 - 7:30 pm, at PCC SE Community Hall Annex, 2305 SE 82nd Ave. Project staff will provide updates on design and progress. Portland Bureau of Transportation will also present the initial concepts for safety improvements to make outer SE Division St. (SE 82nd Ave. to Portland city limits) safer for everyone who uses the street. Sign up for project email updates and meeting notices at trimet.org/division.

The Mt. Tabor bike races on Wednesdays are a wonderful event but they have been violating Mt. Tabor Park's sound amplification rules by exceeding time limits. MTNA has worked with the City of Portland Parks Bureau to resolve the problem.

Portland Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) will be seeking a noise variance for upcoming sewer work in 2018 at SE 68th and Burnside and Gilham streets. For more information, visit portlandoregon.gov/bes/MontavillaN and portlandoregon.gov/bes/MontavillaS. If you have questions or concerns, such as maintaining driveway access, business operations, medical deliveries, etc., during construction, contact Rhett Drennan at BES at 503.823.6006 or Rhett.Drennan@portlandoregon.gov.

The Portland Adult Soapbox Derby will celebrate their 20th year this summer in Mt. Tabor Park. The 2017 event takes place on Saturday, August 19, from 10 am-4 pm. Find out more at soapboxracer.com.

The annual Friends of Mt. Tabor Park potluck picnic will be held on Tuesday, August 8, from 5:30-7:30pm. Weed Warriors have started up again. Sunday, October 1, is the date for this year's Tar 'n' Trail Run which benefits Friends of Mt. Tabor Park. Check out the Friends of Mt. Tabor Park website for all the details: taborfriends.org.

turn to page 21

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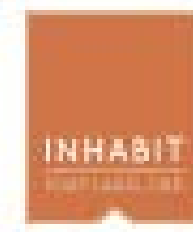
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Owners Sade Perez and Elvira Raposo

As the demographics of the inner eastside changes, so do the appetites of the people living here. Two cousins, who come from a family of traditional restaurateurs in Brooklyn, recently opened Baked Roots Bar.

The cuisine speaks to the growing group of people choosing veganism and a non-gluten diet. As soon as Baked Roots Bar opened their doors a few weeks ago, vegans and restricted diet types were able to enjoy eating someplace where they came dine without having to question the ingredients. Now Sade Perez and Elvira Raposo hope to educate the general public on how tasty vegan cooking can be.

Sade and Elvira knew they wanted to build a business together. It seemed like a natural to go with the restaurant business since their families had been working together in this field all of their young lives. The decision to provide vegan food came about from a personal journey towards wellness that originally Sade was pursuing. When Elvira decided to try eating this way too and she experienced drastic health results, it prompted her to make this a life commitment too.

A simplified explanation of veganism is abstaining from use of any animal products in the diet.

It took a year of planning and experimenting to decide exactly what to do and how to do it. Their goal was to create a menu that used 100% whole foods, was vegan and oil-free. "At first we wanted to do a full-service restaurant but then we decided on a simpler grab-n-go menu," said Elvira.

The main course is their special ten-step shoe string, Russet potato fries, Yukon gold fries, yucca fries and sweet potato fries. The magic of making their crispy baked potato is a secret they won't divulge, but they have managed to capture the traditional french fry texture. Each choice comes with a couple of sauces and several toppings to give it the flavor that lives up to their individual nomenclature.

The *Southeast Examiner* tried the **Bill of Rights** – russet fries covered with a creamy ranch and house buffalo sauce topped off with breaded Cajun Cauliflower, shredded carrots and celery. For a first time vegan food customer, it was delicious and very filling and served in to-go packaging so you can make it two meals.


The individual French fry menu features unique flavors that are associated with different countries in the world. "We spent hours experimenting with ingredients to bring a distinctive taste to the sauces and spices we use," Sadie said. Not only do the flavors of the dish correspond to the location, but the names have a powerful meaning too. Libertadores acknowledges South American; Round Table, Mediterranean; Ubuntu, Africa; Holism, Japan and Moiety, Australia.

An example of the meaning of things, Moiety is the name the native tribes of Australia used to describe the division of each tribe into two "moieties." They were understood to balance each other. It's their version of the interconnectedness between people, animals and nature.

For dessert they make Glaciology – the study of the internal dynamics and effects of glaciers – chocolate, peanut butter icebergs submerged in fizzing root beers. In keeping with the theme, the beverages Baked Roots Bar serves are root beer, ginger beer and water.

For those choosing to dine in you can sharpen up your geographic knowledge with the mural of the map of the world and the little globes on each table. Does any know where Kazakhstan is?

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Sckavone's Restaurant

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Sunday 8 am – 9 pm

The name Sckavone has been associated with Division St. and the Richmond neighborhood ever since 1908 when six-month-old Nick Sckavone immigrated here with his family from Italy. From an early age, he had gumption and leadership qualities. When he was fifteen, he was selling *The Oregonian* on downtown street corners. His employers decided to save money by not buying back the extra papers from the newsboys at the end of the day. Nick demonstrated his organizational skills and formed a union with the other newsboys and went on strike. The publisher quickly resumed the buyback policy.

At seventeen, Sckavone established the Richmond Athletic Club to form the neighborhood baseball team. He had a lifetime devotion to amateur sports for both boys and girls, the Westmoreland's Sckavone Field is named after him.

In 1931 he opened the Ever Ready Drug Store. At the time it was located directly west of Sckavone's Restaurant, 4100 SE Division St. The lunch counter became the neighborhood gathering place. Conversations went from World War II to Vietnam, local politics to Watergate, neighborhood gossip and sports. He built the current location in 1950 where he continued to connect deeply to the community.

Nick's grandson, Jon Finely, remembers hanging out with him as a kid. He would get to enjoy a treat from the soda fountain and listen to talk about baseball. Nick retired in 1975 and the family rented the building out to several different businesses and a restaurant. In the meantime Jon Finely graduated from college, worked in his father's restaurant (The Beaver Cafe) and then went on to creating packaging for computer software sales – a business he eventually sold.

"It was the timing of everything that made me decide to open Sckavone's Restaurant," Joe said. Fusion closed in 2005 and he was in between jobs. Opening the restaurant was a career change for him and he wanted to build on a theme that began with his grandfather of providing the community a place to eat and meet one another.

Since Finley wasn't a cook himself he worked with other cooks to figure out what the neighborhood didn't have. "There was Thai food, Mexican food, vegetarian, barbecue but what we determined was lacking was simple, classic American faire."

They serve ribs, fried chicken, mac and cheese, fish and chips, meat loaf; food we are familiar with. "We keep it simple." This appeals to local diners who like traditional food served up in a place that has a history of hospitality and community gathering.

There are a lot of new young families that come in and are becoming the new regulars, Jon says. "I'll see them talking with the elderly couple sitting at the table next to them." On any given night he knows many of the people who have come for dinner.

Sckavone's opens at 9 am for breakfast and continues to serve food throughout the day. The breakfast menu includes several renditions of the ever popular Eggs Benedict, Huevos Rancheros, a Mexican bowl and other tantalizing items. The coffee comes from K & F Coffee Roasters on Clinton St. Lunch offers delicious sounding choices too and all menus can be viewed online at sckavones.com.



Jon Finely



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Arthur Schopenhauer

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Immigrants making Portland home

By CHARLOTTE FINN

Unlike so many newcomers who set their sights on living in our hip city, Yasmine's family arrived by a more arduous, traumatic, and lengthy process.

They are Burmese refugees who had been living as stateless, displaced persons for years without a country to call their own who came to SE Portland less than a year ago.

Yasmine is 21, and her parents and three younger brothers arrived in Portland with no idea what to expect. Her first impression when stepping out of the airport was that this must be a very rich country to use air conditioning outside.

She had never felt such coolness outdoors on her skin having lived her entire life in Malaysia where temperatures are intensely hot and humid all year long.

Yasmine's ancestors, members of the minority Muslim Rohingya group, migrated from Bangladesh to Myanmar (formerly known as Burma) generations ago. They

settled in the Rakhine state of Myanmar, and made their lives in a Buddhist-majority country suffering discrimination and persecution.

Hundreds of thousands fled to neighboring countries to avoid brutal attacks and abject poverty, but they were not welcomed in those countries either.

Rather than live in squalid temporary refugee camps on their borders, many Rohingya made the grueling journey by boat, bus, and foot finally arriving in Malaysia where they at least had opportunities to work, although not legally.

Yasmine's young parents made the dangerous trip to Malaysia before she was born, working mostly in restaurants and doing odd jobs to earn money, satisfied that at least they had safety.

The family had 5 children and coped as well as they could on a meager income in a country where they could never legally settle and obtain rights to schools and regular employment or other benefits of being a citizen.

They began the application process with the UNHRC (United

Nations High Commission for Refugees) in Malaysia knowing the wait was long and uncertain.

Each phase of the vetting process took years of interviews and screening and, with each nerve-wracking phase, they could have been denied or disqualified and be taken from the pool small pool of fortunate refugees who would hve their case transferred to a particular country for yet another vetting process.

After four years of waiting and hoping, their case was transferred to the US authorities who did more screening and determined the family could come to the US and settle in Portland.

They felt fortunate and were thrilled, but also nervous about how their lives in Portland would take shape. Yasmine had spent her whole life in Malaysia hiding as a displaced person.

Fortunately, she had attended a UNHCR school in Malaysia where she learned to speak English well.

Her parents didn't have this advantage and still struggle to understand the most basic English. Yasmine is their interpreter for culture and language, changing her role significantly in her family.

The family lives in an apartment in SE Portland where they grapple with the everyday tasks of living. The learning curve has been steep, the challenges many, and adapting has been a ragged process where one day the family feels confident and comfortable with their new lives and the next like strangers in a place that baffles them.

The small community of Rohingya refugees in Portland help each other adapt to the many different customs and practices of life here, in celebrating their own culture and religion.

Yasmine's family agree that despite some of the difficulties of life in the US, the expense of living, the chilly climate, and the recent news that refugees, especially Muslim refugees, are unwelcomed by some, life in Portland is safe and pleasant compared to what they experienced in either Myanmar or Malaysia.

Yasmine's father has a job as a hotel housekeeper, and the children all go to school. Yasmine attends PCC and works as an English/Rohingya interpreter helping other refugees, and her mother has learned where to shop, how to ride the bus, and can understand more and more English, although speaking is still challenging for her.

What would they want their SE Portland neighbors to know about them? "We are like you," says Yasmine.

"We want to be safe, have opportunities to work and go to school, and we will work hard to follow your customs and our own so that we can live peacefully at last and unafraid to walk in the streets of our new neighborhood."

Let's give a hardy welcome to families like Yasmine's and respect and cherish what they bring to our communities.



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Michael Shay & The Texas Express

Michael Shay and The Texas Express perform mini-tour send-off and Brian Oberlin Portland farewell at the venerable Laurelthirst

Singer-songwriter Michael Shay and his “not-grass” quintet The Texas Express perform at Laurelthirst Public House, 2958 NE Glisan St. Wednesday, July 5 for a last performance with Brian Oberlin before Oberlin moves out of state and the trio goes north for 10 days of shows in WA and BC. Music begins at 9 pm and there is no cover.

Since moving to Portland from Ecuador in 2016, Shay has been performing with a cast of some of the city’s veteran bluegrass pickers. In contrast to his own self-named trio, The Texas Express leans on a traditional bluegrass repertoire and an upbeat, banjo-fied versions of Shay’s originals, re-connecting country folk and bluegrass music through a uniquely Texas lens.

With Oberlin on mandolin, Spud Siegel on fiddle and mandolin, Peter Schwimmer on banjo, and Chris Kee on bass, the night features serious picking and a little bit of Texas in the house.

With a career spent collaborating with musicians in a dozen countries, Shay’s vision exists comfortably outside any “Americana” box while still evoking his earliest influences and the ghosts of William Blake, Hank Williams and Sappho - all while you dance too. His baritone voice and guitar plus mandolin, upright bass and the trio’s three-part vocal harmonies combine for a powerfully elegant sound.

An audio preview awaits you at michaelshay.com.



Blue language, blue laws, blue moons, blue seas: The Secret Society of Book Artists hold a month-long exhibition on the theme Mood Indigo, featuring works incorporating shades of blue and surface design.

It’s also the title of a new group show showing July 7 - 30 at 12x16 gallery, 8235 SE 13th Ave. No. 5.

The self-proclaimed secret society emerges from the shadows to share work they’ve created over the past several years featuring the color blue with a focus on indigo-dyed cloth and paper. The members create traditional books and boxes, calligraphy pieces, mobiles, embroidery, and hand-made clothing.

Politically outspoken, the members followed a sub-theme of ‘Resist’ referring to both a dyeing technique and feminist political action. Together they created a group collaborative piece formed from fourteen separate 12 x 16 rectangles which will be sold, with proceeds going to Immigration and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO)

The First Friday reception is Friday July 7, from 6 to 9 pm. The Artist Talk and Indigo Demo is Sunday July 9, 2-4 pm and a chance for members of the public to try their hand at dyeing something blue. Gallery hours are Thursday - Sunday 12-5 pm 12x16gallery.com / 503.432.3513

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The monthly Belly Dance night at Marino Adriatic Cafe, 4129 Division is Friday July 14 this month with an 8 pm showtime. A night of music and dance, food and drink, friends and fun.

Hosted by Julie Cardin-Warling, this month’s music will be provided through the expressive fiddle stylings of violinist Michelle Alany.

The whole family is welcome and there is no cover (though donations are always appreciated for the line up of dancers

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Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom!

Portland’s newest theatrical organization is The Inclement Theater Company. The student run non-profit was founded this Spring and intends to bring a new source of activity and excitement to the SE area.

The Theater’s 2017 summer show is Jennifer Haley’s award-winning **Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom!** The show takes place in a modern suburbia with perfect lawns and friendly neighbors. Under this paradise, something takes control of the minds of the neighborhood’s teens; a video game where you must fight in a neighborhood just like your own against howling ghouls who look a lot like your own friends and family to get to The Final House. Where the games end and reality begins is not always clear...

Neighborhood 3 will be performed at The Clinton Street Theater, 2522 SE Clinton St, at 7 pm Friday July 7, and 2 pm and 7 pm Saturday, July 8. Tickets are available at the door for \$10 for adults and \$8 for students and seniors.

Inclement Theater’s mission statement is to “serve the community of SE Portland. We strive to provide high quality student run theater while empowering local youth to use the stage as a way to communicate modern issues and culture to our audience.”



AJ Ashworth (left) and Natalie Alper

Concerts in the Park

The free summer concert series Tuesday evenings at Mt. Tabor Park is part of the Portland Parks & Recreation’s Concerts in the Park and sponsored by Warner Pacific College.

The concerts have been a citywide musical tradition for over 110 years. Last year over forty thousand people attended 60+ concerts in the parks. The citywide schedule is posted at portlandoregon.gov/parks/69555.

Here is the Mt Tabor list with a special Sunday Symphony in Laurelhurst Park included too.

Pack a picnic dinner, bring a blanket or low chairs, and enjoy music under the stars. Mt. Tabor Park is at SE 69th & Taylor St. The music begins each night at 6:30 pm. There is no admission and food vendors on site

There is no concert at Mt Tabor on July 4. **July 11 is Conjunto Alegre** (Salsa, cumbia, bachata); **July 18 – The Seventh Seal** (Caribbean reggae from Bim Barbados); and **July 26 –Freak Mountain Ramblers** (Home-brewed mountain rock),

Sunday, July 30 at Laurelhurst Park, (SE Cesar E Chavez Blvd and Stark St.) – Concert Portland Festival Symphony, Gregory Vajda: Rough and Ready – An American Outdoor Overture

Summer events are all free!

NOTE: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES for personal consumption are permitted only during Concerts in the Park. All dogs must be on a leash. All parks and natural areas are smoke and tobacco free zones. Bike Parking available at event. ADA Accessible.



The Freak Mountain Ramblers play Mt Tabor Park

Barnham Family

Barnham Family Hotdog is a live comedy show mash-up of Hee Haw, Antiques Roadshow, and variety television of the 1970s. It also features the antics of Big Ed and Summer America Barnham. Big Ed is a flea market capitalist, estate sale tycoon, husband, moonshiner and occasional giver of tax advice.

The play celebrates summer the season, with two big Sunday nights of comedy, music, barnyard drama, antiquing, poetry, modern art, improv and whimsy. Big Ed Barnham himself says, “Somebody’s gonna win a ham every dang night!”

Barnham Family Hotdog finds Big Ed and Summer America joined by Christian Ricketts, Wallace Fessler and Katie Behrens. The show runs July 2 and July 9 at The Shoebox Theatre, 2110 SE 10th Ave. Doors open at 6:30 pm with the show beginning at 7. Tickets are available at \$15 at bigedbarnham.com or at eventbrite.com/e/barnham-family-hot-dogs-tickets.

“It’s the season for sitting outside, paddling down the river, taking in the sun and experimenting with lemonade recipes,” said Summer America Barnham, “but, come early Sunday night, many folks want some light entertainment to take their mind off Monday morning or to forget the ravages of Saturday night’s drinking. We aim to do just that with a show that will still see them back home at a respectable bedtime.”

Holly Wigmore (Summer America Barnham) is a performer, producer, and teaching artist. Scott Rogers (Big Ed Barnham) is the creator of One of a Kind Find of the Week, a web series screened internationally. Both are very good at what they do.



Ed (left) and Summer America Barnham BBQ and relax

Bonnie Meltzer at Sidestreet

Sidestreet Gallery’s featured artist for July is Bonnie Meltzer, who seamlessly blends found objects with crocheted imagery, Melzer creates thought-provoking commentaries designed to challenge our preconceptions about society. The piece to the right is titled Working Mother.

The July featured artist showcase will be on view July 2 to Aug 2. Sidestreet Gallery is located at 140 SE 28th Ave. Open Wednesday through Sunday, noon to 5 pm. See sidestreetgalleryportland.com.

The Wild Raccoon & the Cats of Doon

Welcome to the enchanting mysterious world of The Wild Raccoon & the Cats of Doon, the new book from SE author and illustrator Rebecca Alany, a story of imagination and empowerment for the young and young at heart.

This lavishly author-illustrated young reader’s book of courage and friendship makes a wonderful family read-aloud book for children of all ages. It’s a tale of transformation and empowerment inspired by real-life adventure.

The book debuts at the NW Book Festival 2017, Saturday, July 29 at Pioneer Courthouse Square from 10 am - 4:30 pm. Alany will be in booth 24.

The book is also available at



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Short takes

...arts news of note

THE REVOLUTION CHOIR perform at a city-permitted rally at Laurelhurst Park concert pad Saturday, July 8 at 3 pm. Through song and voice, The Revolution Choir is spreading the progressive message. The Choir is an energized group of women and men who sing for Equal Pay for Equal Work, Climate Change, Money in Politics, Income Inequality, Gerrymandering, LGBTQ Rights, Black Lives Matter, Universal Health care and more. FREE and kid-friendly. Rain or Shine. See RevolutionChoir.com

CLINTON ST. THEATRE’S SUMMER SCREENINGS in their Resistance Series are hilarious, wondrous and manifold. *Born on the Fourth of July*, July 3; *National Lampoon’s European Vacation*, July 10; *Stop Making Sense*, July 17; *Stripes*, July 24; *Wet Hot American Summer*, July 31; *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan*, August 7; *Peewee’s Big Adventure*, August 14; *Woodstock: Three Days Of Peace And Music*, August 21. cstpdx.com

RODNEY CROWELL INSTORE PERFORMANCE AND GUITAR GIVEAWAY AT MUSIC MILLENNIUM – Saturday, July 8 at 1 pm. Someone will win a signed Rodney Crowell guitar. He’s made records since 1978’s Ain’t Living Long Like This and his Diamonds & Dirt yielded five number-one country hits. His new album, Close Ties, is a roots record and his most intimate with Lightnin Hopkins and John Lee Hooker in mind. Meet the man and hear new tunes up close and intimate at Millennium.

THE OUT TO PASTURE ANIMAL SANCTUARY Annual Open House is Saturday, July 22 from 4 to 7 pm. This free, family friendly event features a free vegan BBQ, vegan cupcake walk, watermelon eating contest, sack races and other games plus a chance to meet the animals. Out to Pasture is a nonprofit sanctuary in Estacada dedicated to sheltering abandoned, abused, and neglected animals. Located at 33190 SE Regan Hill Road, Estacada 97023. See outtopasturesanctuary.org for more information.

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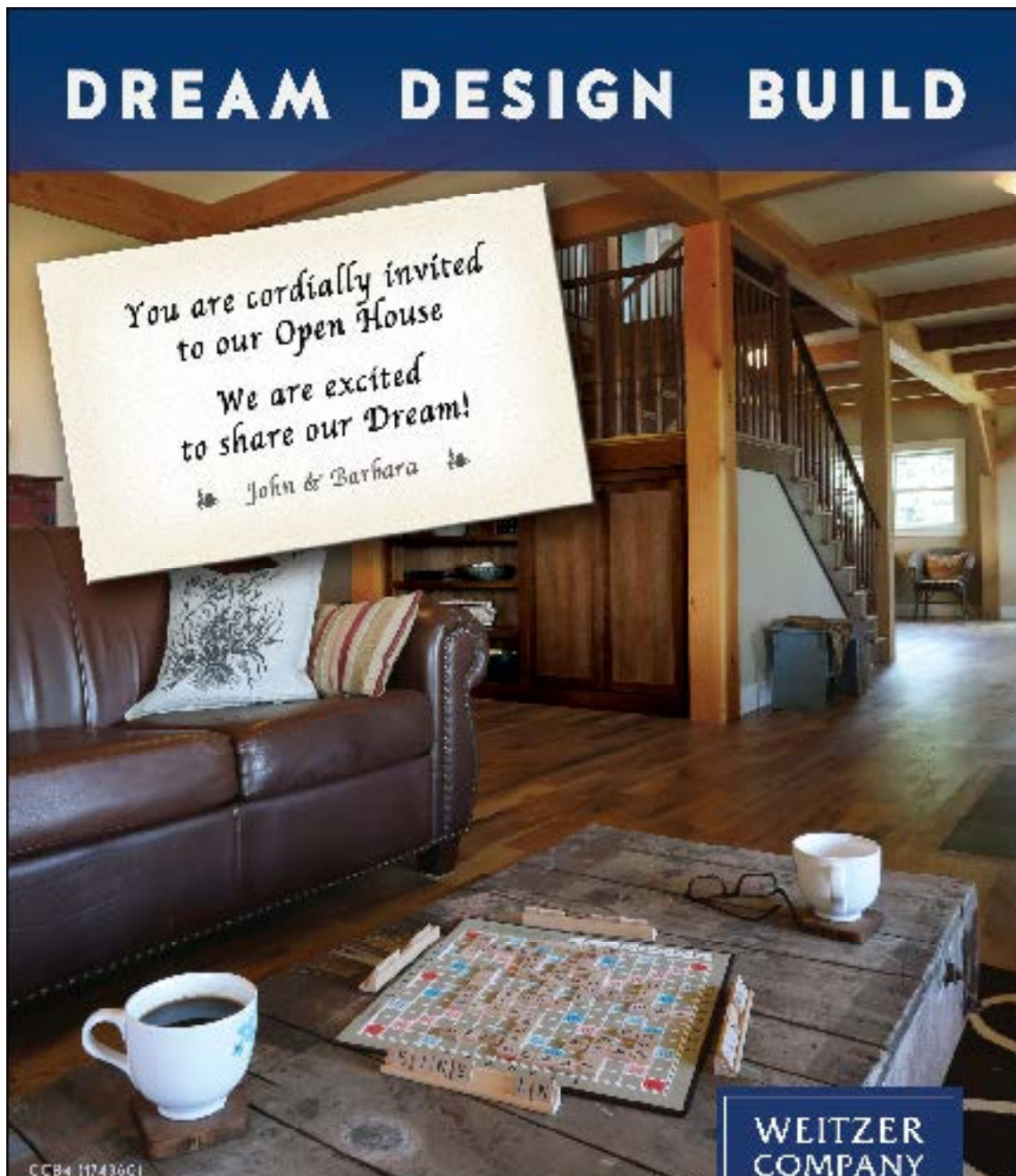
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Seniors get closer to

BY KAREN HERY

There is a quiet revolution going on in SE Portland, championed by a wide range of volunteers, paying it forward in anticipation of their own senior years.

JoAnn Herrigel, chair of the governing counsel of Eastside Village PDX, remembers the day when years of talk and planning turned into action, all to help seniors stay in their homes longer.

"A group of us working to organize better solutions for seniors kept talking about opening an office next year . . . for several years. I was the one to say, if we keep saying we are going to do this we should do it."

Her gumption put her at the helm of Eastside Village PDX and at the center of a growing passion here for creating supportive, social villages around seniors. More residents east of the river are seeking ways to age in place without feeling isolated and alone, especially when they are no longer able drive or do home maintenance tasks easily or at all.

A creative collection of social groups, volunteer-driven non-profits and even a senior-designed and funded communal condominium project called PDX Commons have come into being in the last few years just in time for the baby boomer bubble that is increasing the need for senior services.

Eastside Village PDX, officially in service to seniors since

October 2015, takes a holistic approach to connecting aging-in-place Portlanders with a whole village of helpful neighbors.

Seniors join as annual members, many for the wide variety of social events Eastside Village PDX coordinates. No request for help from another village member or village volunteer is too small or too odd to be considered.

Not all requests are met but many are, including repainting a porch or helping to stage a garage sale for a grateful senior who couldn't lift the many boxes of things she wanted to move.

The number one request Eastside Village PDX gets from its members is for rides to doctor appointments and events.

Consumer Reports ran a feature article last month about seniors and driving noting that the average American male outlives his ability to drive by six years; the average American female, by 10 years.

Navigating public transportation and volunteer ride services, especially after years of car travel, overwhelms many seniors just at the very time it would be best for daily life to get simpler. Ride Connection, a non-profit founded in 1988 still going strong all around Portland, acts as a clearinghouse of transportation options.

One call to Ride Connection connects seniors and their families to special travel training on how to use public transporta-

neighbors to stay home longer

tion, fare relief, non-emergency medical transportation and neighborhood shuttles driven by volunteers.

Proposed budget cuts at the national level are threatening many programs. Thankfully, Meals on Wheels People, the local non-profit that makes sure housebound seniors in SE Portland have daily, well-prepared meals, is in a better position to serve qualifying seniors in Portland than many of the daily meals on wheels programs around the country.

When the Trump administration made major budget cut announcements in mid-May, news stories spread about how Meals on Wheels to seniors would be cut. According to Julie Piper Finley, Meals on Wheels People marketing director, money funding this service in Multnomah County doesn't come from the threatened community block grants that fund similar services in smaller communities.

Austin, a similar sized city to Portland, often places seniors who request home-delivered meals on a waiting list. In 47 years, Meals on Wheels People here in Portland has not had to turn away any Portland seniors who requested home meal delivery.

There may be cuts to health and human services monies in the final federal budget but Finley is confident that through funds made available at the state and federal level and through some local fundraising as well, all seniors in need of meal delivery will be fed.

Hundreds of volunteers each day help keep costs down

for many vital services for seniors. Just as regular volunteers start taking extended breaks for summer vacations, teachers and students, off for the summer, step in to take their place.

Some volunteers enjoy daily tasks like driving meals to seniors and seniors to meals or setting tables and serving food at se-

Some volunteers enjoy daily tasks like driving meals to seniors and seniors to meals or setting tables and serving food at senior centers. Others pick up once a week or once a month shifts that help to fill in the gaps.

nior centers. Others pick up once a week or once a month shifts that help to fill in the gaps.

Outings and events for seniors, hosted by Eastside Village PDX, Ride Connections and at Meals on Wheels Belmont Center, do many things to boost the health and vitality of seniors.

"Seniors make friends, which is really important, especially after a spouse has died," explains Herrigel who lists an impressive variety of social meet-ups on the Eastside Village PDX website, which are well-attended

by seniors and the village's volunteers of all ages.

Anyone curious about joining Eastside Village PDX, to volunteer or to learn more, see eastsidevillage.org.

They host a monthly coffee gathering and meeting for seniors and volunteers, this month on Friday, July 7, 9:30 - 10:30 am at Taborspace Coffeehouse at 5441 SE Belmont St.

Drivers are always needed at Meals on Wheels People. Information about volunteering and meal delivery at mealsonwheelspeople.org.

Because of the large number of meals they prepare each day, most of the food is purchased rather than donated. Donations of fresh, homegrown produce can be dropped off to be incorporated into salads and desserts at their Belmont Senior Center at 46th and Belmont.

Ride Connection has volunteer opportunities for drivers and office support outlined at rideconnection.org/get-involved/volunteer. Seniors can request a ride either by phone: 503.226.0700 or through an online form for returning customers.

Being a senior in inner SE has always had its built in perks with walking access to parks and essential services. Now, thanks to growing service communities and a volunteer village of neighborly support, aging in place is getting easier and easier as more of us enter into our golden years.

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Thomas Henry Huxley

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Real missing middle housing

from page 3

In crisis now over affordable housing, homelessness is one result and homelessness is more than a lack of affordable housing. Its causes include issues around: health, income, justice, education, discrimination, to name just a few.

Also, there are societal issues far greater than ability of Portland's local government to manage effectively. Many of the solutions require additional financial resources, but local governments can't reduce their spending to redistribute money to these needs nor can they raise money through taxation or fees.

For thirty years there has not been a major overhaul of taxation in Oregon in spite of the need to rectify the property tax reductions in the 1990s, Solutions lie with national priorities and private organizations that have the greatest influence over both public and private policies.

Just a small portion of the national defense budget over ten years would solve or at least reduce many of these problems and save money in the long run; not to mention the improved well being of millions of people. We would still have a national defense at least ten times that of any other nation on earth.

The latest Planning study currently underway is the Better Housing by Design project. This builds on the previous work of the last five years relating to the Comprehensive Plan.

As Portland grows, more

people will be living in multi-family housing in and around bustling centers and corridors. By 2035, up to 80 percent of the anticipated 120,000 new households will likely be in multi-family buildings and other compact housing types.

The city is trying to ensure that new housing apartments and condominiums will be more affordable, fit the character of the surrounding neighborhood, provide amenities to both tenants and neighbors, and help make open space and transportation more available to everyone.

New rules are needed to ensure new construction better meets the needs of current and future residents and encourage better development to provide quality living environments, connected to schools, shopping and transit.

This project proposes building small scale housing such as duplexes, triplexes, four-plexes, and small apartments. This is known as the "Missing Middle."

When successful, there will be more usable outdoor space for play areas or gardening, a greater diversity of housing, more options for the physically handicapped, building designs responsive to the surrounding context, sidewalks and streetscapes that provide comfortable walking environments, and a wider variety of housing types to meet the needs of the citizens of Portland.

One of the sources of these ideas is looking at what already exists in Portland's inner neighborhoods. Much of it was

built a century ago before there were cars and shopping malls. Older apartments accommodated more households. In the 1920s, 34 units were often built on a quarter of city block while in 2015 only 9 units were built on the same sized site.

The 2035 Comprehensive Plan provides for many types of housing options, with more intense development in centers and corridors rather than only four to six story market rent apartment buildings.

The current Zoning Code prevents the mix of mid-scale housing built between 1900 and 1960. Middle scale housing developments tend to be more affordable than single-family development, allow more households to live on a lot without increasing the size of the building and they are more accessible to people with mobility limitations.

New development would contribute to street and pedestrian connections by orienting the building entrances to streets and minimizing blank walls. Front facing garages will be limited in multi-dwelling zones. Sidewalk use could be made more desirable for people using wheelchairs, walkers and strollers. Requiring rear parking or no off-street parking garage or carports in areas close to transit.

These ideas and many more are in this forthcoming plan for Better Housing Design available through the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability website at portlandoregon.gov/bps/71903.

Business Association News . .

DIVISION CLINTON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

DIVISION/CLINTON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

HAWTHORNE BLVD BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

DCBA Pres.: Jean Baker
email mjeanbaker@peoplepc.com
Meetings: 3rd Tuesday
OHSU Family Medicine at Richmond
7:30 am
3930 SE Division
divisionclinton.com

HBBA Pres.: Hilda Stevens
explore@hawthornepdx.com
Meetings: Second Weds. at 8 am
Western Seminary classroom
5511 SE Hawthorne Blvd.
hawthornepdx.com / 503.775.7633

Welcome to the Farmhouse Kitchen at 3354 SE Hawthorne - a Thai cuisine restaurant. Chef Pop and his staff have done a beautiful job of refreshing the space and the offerings are varied and tasty. See farmhousepdx.com 503.432.8115. They serve lunch from 11:30 am to 2 pm and dinner from 5 pm to 9 pm.

Hello India Restaurant and Lounge has opened at 3500 SE Hawthorne and specializes in North Indian cuisine. Their phone number is 503.232.7860 and they are open 7 days a week with lunch served from 11 am to 2:30 pm and dinner from 5 pm to 10 pm. helloindiapdx.com

We are looking forward to the 34th Annual Hawthorne Street Fair on August 27, 11-7 pm. Many of your favorite businesses will add to their retail space by setting up in one of the "Quads" nearby.

Boulevard business owners, managers, staff and neighbors continue to work on providing an interesting, diverse and comfortably safe place for our customers and the community. HBBA businesses and friends will be testifying at City Council on July 12 at 9:30 am regarding the district's appreciation of the former PPD walking patrol and the need for assistance with current issues.

Some contact tips and phone numbers:
City/county information & referral: 503.823.4000
Mental Health Crisis Line (24 hours) 503.988.4888
PDX Reporter Smartphone App: PortlandOregon.gov/pdxreporter - send a picture and report graffiti and more.

The Hawthorne District Map is out now.
Thank you to returning HBBA member NW Mortgage upstairs at 5015 SE Hawthorne Greetings and welcome to Cubo (formerly El Cubo de Cuba) at 3106 SE Hawthorne.

Thank you also to article Sponsors: Hawthorne Vision Center and Rivermark Community Credit Union and to 2017 Benefactors: Jiffy Lube, Fred Meyer Hawthorne and New Seasons Market. Also to our early Hawthorne Street Fair (Sunday, August 27) Platinum Sponsors: Fred Meyer Hawthorne and Rivermark Community Credit Union.

Finding the perfect rug

from page 4

they're moving to a new home, when they see the need to make a change or are just looking for something special to brighten up their space.

If shoppers are unsure of what they want, Omar and Alexandra will let people take a rug with them and experience how it feels in their home.

When Omar was a year old, his father left a profession in engineering and started importing Persian rugs and selling them in Guatemala City. He had discovered that their family history traced back to ancient Persia, in which rugs were an integral part of life.

Omar was literally raised on rugs. The passion clicked in him from a young age and he decided to embrace it and be the next generation to carry on this art form.

When he was 15, he

worked an exhibition and was offered the option of being paid in cash or with a rug. He'd had his eye on one (rug) and he chose it, feeling that it had more value than monetary compensation. He has it to this day and still feels he made the right choice.

"Every day I wake up and get to do what I love," Omar says. "I consider that a great success. Keeping up on inventory and getting the necessary exposure with a limited budget are, of course, challenging, but the rewards definitely exceed the challenges."

"Being in SE Portland, in a neighborhood and community we love and getting to pass on our appreciation for this incredible art and culture - that's what dreams are made of. Our goal is to continue to expand our inventory so that anyone and everyone can find the perfect rug. We're also online and offer free shipping nationwide."

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BABA President: Constance Ihrke
Email: cli825@msn.com
Meetings: Second Thur. 9 am
Historic Belmont Firehouse, 900 SE 35th
belmontbusiness.org

The Belmont Street Fair will be Saturday, September 9 this year. Vendor spaces are already filling and the passport purchases for prizes promotion is returning this year.

Businesses from 12th to 60th on or near Stark, Morrison and Belmont have until July 20 to join the Belmont Passport program.

Starting Saturday, August 12, purchases at Belmont district businesses including Laughing Planet, Bare Bones, The Belmont Inn, Baby Doll Pizza and Belmont Eco Laundry, are stamped onto passport cards available at participating businesses that count towards gifts and prizes picked up by turning in Passports at the Belmont Street Fair.

Monthly BABA business meetings for the Belmont Area Business Association are the second Thursday of the month 9 - 10:30 am at the Belmont Firehouse: 35th and Belmont. BBB events - Belmont Business Beverage networking events - are held at different locations around the district on the fourth or fifth week of the month.

For more details about the fair, membership, meetings and networking events, contact Karen Hery, BABA marketing and communications rep at info@belmontdistrict.org 503.407.2667 and check online at belmontdistrict.org.

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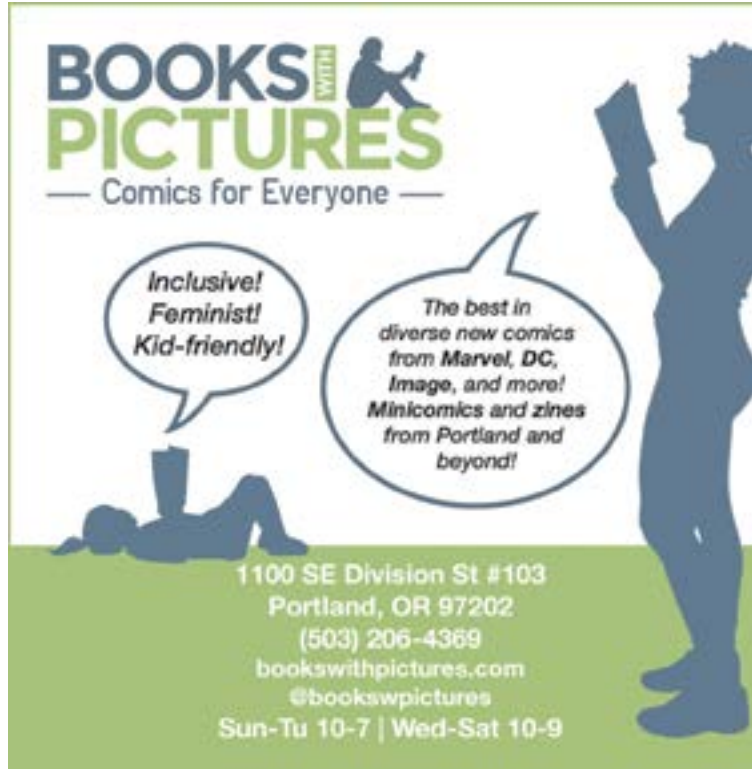
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Low Income Housing for Seniors

By DON MACGILLIVRAY

Finding an affordable home for a low-income senior citizen seems almost impossible. The typical rent for a small apartment may be around \$1,000 a month, and even these units are rare and difficult to find.

There are few options other than a subsidized apartment where the rent will be 1/3 of a senior's monthly income. One third of seniors over 65 live primarily on their social security income.

Typically this is approximately \$1,000 a month so rent won't be more than \$300, but social security income for seniors in their seventies and eighties is likely to be much less in spite of annual cost of living adjustments that don't keep up with inflation.

The demand for federally subsidized housing far exceeds the supply. Waiting lists for most apartment buildings are closed because there are over a hundred people on each and it can take years to get into an apartment.

Recently, when several Home Forward's affordable housing projects opened their waiting lists for ten days, 21,000 people applied. Only one in five was able to get on a waiting through the lottery that was created to keep the lists manageable.

Eighteen of the thirty-six affordable housing apartment buildings managed by Home Forward will keep people waiting for ten years. Only eleven have waiting lists less than three years. Thankfully there are other organizations that provide affordable housing, but often rents are higher than those provided with a Section 8 voucher. They are usually based on a percentage of median family income, so many of these are not affordable to low income seniors and these also can have long waiting lists.

There is no good way of distributing affordable housing so the lottery and waiting list system seems to be the standard. However, those applying for housing don't know how long it will take for them to get into an apartment and elderly seniors

may not have ten years to wait for an affordable apartment.

Many people apply to be on waiting lists of several apartment buildings and if everyone does this, lists become inflated. It is unlikely that more than one or two apartments will be become available each month at each building.

Applying and qualifying for an affordable rental housing facility is difficult. The applicant must prove they meet the qualifications. Income is a major factor and there are limits on an applicants net worth.

This means you need to provide the housing administration and HUD with documentation concerning employment income, checking accounts, savings accounts, stocks or bonds, IRAs, 401Ks, trusts, all assets disposed of in the previous two years, real estate, your credit rating, and anything else of value.

Various apartment housing facilities often allow only those with specific qualifications such as senior citizens, handicapped, mentally challenged, etc. to apply.

Probably only half the facilities are open to anyone. Likewise people can be excluded for the excessive use of drugs or alcohol. A criminal background can eliminate an applicant from consideration. An apartment eviction in the last seven years can disqualify you.

The initial application covers all these things and then when a unit becomes available you must document that the information on your application is still true. Meanwhile, the landlord checks your credibility from the various sources available to them.

This can be difficult enough for those that have a clean record and will qualify, but if there are blemishes on your record, you are unlikely to get a unit. This, in part, is why there are so many homeless people.

For the past fifteen years the authorities have advocated a "housing first" policy so that even those with problematic pasts can find places to live. There are a few landlords that will work with government to make exceptions for some people. Once again, the general lack of affordable housing

makes it difficult for everyone, and those that qualify may feel it is unfair that a person without a satisfactory background gets placed ahead of them.

Out of all the new apartment buildings built in Portland over the last few years, very few are affordable to those with the greatest need. One would think housing is a right, but it is not.

It takes money from many sources to put together the millions of dollars it takes to build a new apartment building and when tenants won't be paying market rent, a subsidy is required. Just because it is for low-income people doesn't mean that the project costs less to build.

St. Francis Park Apartments in Buckman that opened this May is one of the few new affordable buildings. It was funded with federal, city, private, as well as a HUD subsidy among other sources and it took longer to put this package together than it took to build the building. A typical unit costs approximately \$200,000 whether it is in a market rate building or an affordable apartment building.

There are people that are trying to do better. Rob Justus, formerly the founder of JOIN (providing outreach to the homeless), has formed a partnership with others that has been able to build new affordable housing for about \$80,000 a unit. Much of the savings are because of a unique way the project was financed and some of the usual features were changed so that units were less costly while still meeting code and needs of the renters. With a variety of new public funding sources the affordable housing situation may improve locally.

Portland should not be the only source for affordable housing. Portland is only about one third of the region and there are a lot more open spaces and less density outside the city which should make it easier to locate greatly needed affordable housing and facilities.

Such work will never be easy and it will always be controversial. Not until the many factors that contribute to the housing crisis are addressed will the situation both locally and nationally improve.



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SE Updates

from cover

The Mt. Tabor Villa apartments is geared to people who earn 30 – 60 percent of the Median Family Income (MFI). In other words a person working full time earning minimum wage could afford to live here. Rates would be determined by income.

Rapaport broke down the costs:
Studio – \$500 – \$850
One bdrm – \$550 – \$850
Two bdrm – \$700 – \$1050
Three bdrm – \$850 – \$1200

This would be subsidized housing or public housing. Rapaport plans to include energy efficiency details and construct a quality building. He said that if this project is approved it could partially be paid for by the current \$250 million bond the city has for housing.

Montavilla neighbors like

the idea of affordable housing in the community. The grocery store met with mixed reviews although everyone did agree that a full scale store is lacking here. As with much of the new development happening in our City, the low ratio of parking spaces to apartments is a source of frustration as is the added traffic to neighborhoods.

Rapaport also talked about the future of Montavilla and the plans to increase density here by 1,000 units over the next ten years. He said that developing this particular corner is not a matter of if but rather when.—NT

Historic District Roundup

Christmas came early for those who love Portland's annual street light show. Peacock Lane's nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, unanimously approved by a state preservation committee, is moving toward final decision by the National Parks Service which admin-

isters the program.

Peacock Lane's nomination was spurred by the threat of demolition of one its quintessential cottages. While the home still stands, new construction is underway on a lot split from the property.

Across Stark Street in leafy Laurelhurst, residents responding to a survey of interest in National Historic District designation overwhelmingly voted to pursue nomination. Nearly 85% of 1800 responses supported the idea.

The Laurelhurst Neighborhood Association Board has instructed a citizens committee to develop a nomination timeline, prep a budget and bring a recommended bid to the LNA Board for review, according to resident John Liu who says intense research lies ahead. "The expectation is that this will be a LNA-led nomination effort, with the large majority of expenses paid through new money raised through fundraising, and a substantial reliance on volunteers."—MP

Nn Neighborhood Notes

from page 8

The next meeting of the MTNA will be Wednesday, July 19, at 7 pm at Mt Tabor Presbyterian Church at SE 54th and Belmont, with social time and homemade cookies starting 6:50 pm. For information, visit mttaborpdx.org.

North Tabor

By Gabe Frayne

The lead topic at the June NTNA meeting was the continuing Tabor Sewer Repair Project that has affected many residential streets in the neighborhood. The Department of Environmental Services would like residents to take note of the following points:

- **Work Hours:** typical work hours are 7:00 am to 6:00 pm Monday through Friday
- **Parking Restrictions:** On-street parking in or near the work area may be limited. Please observe no-parking signs.
- **Maintained Service:** sewer and water will remain in service during construction
- **A Safe Work Site:** stay clear of all construction activities and keep children, pets and vehicles out of construction and equipment storage areas.



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15. Chocolate Chip Cookie	36. Almond Marzipan
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Restoring Reservoirs

from cover

sted Brothers more than a century ago.

“A group of very passionate residents has worked for years, and literally thousands of hours, to save the reservoirs from destruction, achieve a negotiated settlement over maintenance and implement restoration needs that go well beyond just keeping water in the basins,” said Laursen.

The citizen group’s latest victory was to secure project funds at risk in the latest round of tight budgeting. In 2015, Portland City Council committed some

\$4 million over a period of four years as part of a reservoir land use resolution.

The funding means that work can begin to repair elegant diamond patterned trim that Laursen calls a “jewel” on the south wall the oldest reservoir on Mt. Tabor’s southern slope. Now, the challenge is to find skilled craftsmen to restore the design and possibly touch up a small, non-potable fountain tucked into the hillside. The reservoir dates back to 1894 and was a popular spot for summer promenades. Today, visitors sometimes leave trinkets in the fountain.

The south wall needs rebuilding since it has eroded to the point that rebar is exposed and deteriorating. In addition, the chain link fence around the west-side dam face will be replaced with something more appropriate to an historic site.

A website and onsite interpretive displays are planned to explain what Laursen calls “the genius of the elegant” gravity-fed system from its Bull Run water source to Portland taps.

“The Mt. Tabor reservoirs are an essential public amenity that should be honored and preserved,” said Laursen.

Build a Better HB 2007

from cover

said citizens are being misled about affordability by Oregon’s “defacto 1000 Enemies”.

Contractor John McCulloch described the bill as a “hand off to developers” who don’t need it. Despite personal gain from the building “gold rush”, he pledged that his housing foundation seeks to balance historic housing with affordability.

Restore Oregon is credited with the catchphrase, Fix It or Vote No. Returning from HB 2007’s abbreviated public hearing, Restore’s Executive Director Peggy Moretti shared concerns about the lack of analysis, public input, rush to legislate and the way the bill is currently written.

“This is far-reaching policy that fails to address affordability and does not stop demolition of modest-sized, moderately-priced housing, she said. “It does more harm than good.”

She added the bill has an irrational focus on undermining historic designations, which she says constitute a negligible 3% of all state housing. “It scapegoats historic districts when they have no meaningful effect on meeting overall housing needs.”

She points to the variety of housing in the Irvington Historic District, the state’s largest, as a way that multi-family housing, diversity and density can co-exist when communities are involved in local decision-making. “The intent of historic districts in not to prevent change, but to manage it.” New construction, she said, can be compatible with historic character.

Offended by accusations of Nimbyism, Moretti added,

“Historic Districts are not enclaves of rich privilege. Affordability, density and preservation can work together.”

Moretti and like-minded cohorts have been instrumental in drafting incentives for adaptive re-use without demolition. The document recommends that existing homes could convert to up four units without triggering cost-prohibitive commercial building codes.

Refuting assumptions that “build baby build will trickle down” to affordable housing, Moretti concluded, “If something is not done to stop rampant demolition, Portlanders will wake up and not recognize this place we call home in a few years.”

Whether friend or foe of HB 2007, all stakeholders agree the housing crisis needs solving. If the bill fails, both sides promise some form of it will be back in local communities and future legislative sessions.

The Big Float

from cover

Chet Pregracke, was another affirmation for the cause of the river. As a high school student Pregracke first saw all the trash that littered the Mississippi River, and this launched him on his quest to clean it up. He started by picking up garbage himself and eventually, with no help from the government, he started his own fundraising. Today his one man operation has grown into a huge operation with more than 60 sponsors (including *National Geographic*).

Lacking experience, financing and connections but with a lot of determination, Willie forged ahead with his idea to invite people to get into the Willamette River and float across. The process meant meeting with eight different bureaus and getting their approval before he launched his first Big Float in 2011.

One of the sponsors of the Big Float encouraged Levenson to make the Human Access Project (HAP) into a non-profit.

“The idea of doing this and going bigger terrified me but for that very reason I decided to go ahead and make the Human Access Project idea into a non-profit business.”

Before any of this was ever possible, Levenson attributes his ability to do something for the greater good to his wife Pamela. The success of her swimsuit business Popina allowed him to leave corporate America and focus on rebuilding access to our river. He is essentially a full-time volunteer.

One of HAPs recent projects was to clear away the riprap rock on the eastside of the river under the Hawthorne Bridge. “I began one day by building a pile of broken cement. When I asked how we could remove the concrete, I learned that the only restrictions were no heavy equipment.”

They hosted a kickoff event called UnRock the Bowl and sixty volunteers showed up. Inmates from Iverness Jail did

a couple of work sessions too. They hauled 19 tons of concrete out of the river.

“We call it Audrey McCall Beach since it was directly across from Tom McCall Park on the other side of the river”. A lot of people wanted him to name it after himself but he thought this would be best.

“Tom McCall and his wife had a great relationship. She was a political force in her own way.” He said that honoring her was a way of acknowledging the influence of his wife too.

In 2000 the Poet’s Beach under the Marquam Bridge on the west side was converted into a sandy beach and a boardwalk was built down to the water. A few years ago it was made even more accessible when Peter Andrusko cut through a basalt barrier and created a pathway down to the beach.

Andrusko engraved elementary school kids’ poems

on the rocks lining the pathway. Levenson wanted to include the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, tribes who for thousands of years lived along the banks of the Willamette.

The word “niswa chaku” or welcome is engraved on the rock at the head of the beach.

More good news is that the Big Pipe did its job this year and there was no trace of CSO’s in the river after this year’s record rain fall.

Testifying before City Council last month on June 6, Levenson continues to build his case for Portlanders to own their waterfront with the proposal of freeing up docks for swimming, providing ladders for exiting the water, making life rings available at swimming locations and making more beaches.

As the eternal optimist Willie believes that Portland is becoming “a city that loves its river.”

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7533 SE Taylor St. \$735,000
1926 Duplex Unit 1: 4 BD, 2 BA
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1923 Bungalow 3 BD, 1.5 BA
2400 Total Sq. Ft.



930 SE 69th Ave. \$Call for Price
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1903 SE Knight St. \$479,900
1928 Bungalow 2 BD, 1 BA
1413 Total Sq. Ft.



3429 SE Grant ct. \$599,900
1910 Bungalow 4 BD, 1 BA
2025 Total Sq. Ft.

Community Events Bulletin

Concerts on Main
July 5th – September 6th
portland5.com/events/music-main

Held in downtown on Main Street, the 12th annual free concert series is open to the public and runs from 5 pm -7 pm every Wednesday. The concerts feature popular local and regional musicians playing a diverse collection of music.

Concerts in the Park – Mount Tabor
Tuesdays in July, 6:30 pm
portlandoregon.gov/parks/69555

The Rose City's best and brightest – from classical to country, rock & roll to rhythm & blues – have been entrancing audiences in parks since 1901. Visit Portland's Parks and Recreation's website for a full list of free concerts and locations.

America's Largest Antique
& Collectables Show
July 14th -16th
Expocenter.org

Spend the day treasure hunting for cool vintage pieces or get your own items appraised at this three day event. All proceeds for verbal market evaluations to benefit the Portland Police Sunshine Division.

Division Clinton Street Fair
July 22nd 10am-5pm
divisionclinton.com
[/the-division-clinton-street-fair/](http://the-division-clinton-street-fair/)

Celebrate the funky charm of one of SE Portland's oldest neighborhoods! The annual event includes a community parade, children's activities, vendors, music, local restaurants, sidewalk sales and more!

The Caplener Group is a dynamic real estate team that is part of the Realty Trust family of brokers.

We specialize in homes for sale in Southeast Portland, and have been representing buyers and sellers here for over 35 years. We have the kind of knowledge and insight that can only be gained through experience.

But we aren't old school; we work with the latest and best in real estate technology. That means you can sell your home faster and for more money, or find your dream house or next investment in the most efficient way possible.

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The Caplener Group
5015 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Portland, Oregon
Gold Level Sustainable Office

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LEFT TO RIGHT: Chelsie Coon, Kevin Caplener, Caroline Easton, and Jan Caplener



ON ON THE STREETS WHERE WE LIVE

S Spotted

S Spotted

ON ON THE STREETS WHERE WE LIVE

By Nancy Tannler, Editor

VP Vox Populi

LE Letters to the Editor

NN Neighborhood Notes

WW Wellness Word

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

LE Letters to the Editor

RS Representatively Speaking

RS Representatively Speaking

VP Vox Populi

BB BUSINESS BEAT

NN Neighborhood Notes

NN Neighborhood Notes

CN Community News

GW GARDEN WISE