



# THE SOUTHEAST EXAMINER

APRIL  
2019

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"Your Neighborhood News Source"

Vol 30 No 4 Portland, OR

## SE Updates

### Yes, It Could Happen Here

The geyser that erupted last month on NE Skidmore was caused by a break in a hundred-years plus, thirty-inch diameter water pipe and could happen anywhere.

While this was the largest main break in Portland's recent history, the city experiences some two hundred main breaks per year within its 2200 miles of pipe, says spokesperson Jaymee Cuti. "We can not predict where or when the next break will happen," she said. About ten miles of pipe are replaced annually.

Aging pipes are certainly at risk of failure especially in century old neighborhoods like those in SE. Soil, water temperature, and corrosion can also be factors. The pipe in NE, however, was thick and not corroded.

Other similar size cities have it worse. Cuti says our area's low-corrosive soil keeps the pipe failure rate relatively low.

"We ask that customers be our eyes and ears. If you spot a main break, please call our Emergency Line, 503.823.4874."

### Schools Face Challenges, but Kids are Okay

Even without cuts in state educational funding, flat school budgets will likely mean teacher layoffs.

Portland Public School parents recently received a disturbing letter from the Superintendent forecasting a \$17 million budget gap for next year due to higher costs of Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) obligations; reduced funding due to lower numbers of English Language Learners, and declining poverty rates in the district.

Ongoing maintenance needs, salary increases and what an aide calls administrative fat in the central office may also be factors.

Cuts could hit inner SE sporadically with schools in the Cleveland cluster potentially hit hard. A visit to several area schools netted varying degrees of alarm with one proactively planning ways to do

turn to page 17



Laurelhurst Gates at NE 32nd and Glisan

## Laurelhurst Neighborhood Receives National Historic Recognition

It's official! After years of work by hundreds of community volunteers, the Laurelhurst Neighborhood has been added to the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district.

The National Parks Service summary decision said "Laurelhurst represents a distinctly planned community/neighborhood in early

20th century Portland."

Chief organizer John Liu said the listing will help preserve the neighborhood's historical architecture, design character and urban forest without placing restrictions on remodeling, solar paneling or accessory dwelling units.

"As Portland grows," Liu said,

"we need to preserve the good and lasting things... I hope the city will give historic preservation higher priority."

Liu thanks Restore Oregon, the Architectural Heritage Center, the McCulloch Foundation, the University of Oregon's Historic Preservation Program and the city for guidance and support. *MP*



Jim Houser introduces Senator Ron Wyden and Congressman Earl Blumenauer

## Local Effects of 2018 Tax Act

Jim Houser, owner of Hawthorne Auto Clinic, hosted a Town Hall with Congressman Earl Blumenauer and Senator Ron Wyden last month to speak with local business people about President Trump's Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) that went into effect last year.

The short form that cuts individual income tax rates, doubles the standard deduction and eliminates personal exemptions. The top individual tax rate drops to thirty-seven percent.

The TCJA cut the corporate tax rate from thirty-five percent to twenty-one percent beginning in 2018. The corporate cuts are permanent, while individual

changes expire at the end of 2025.

According to Senator Wyden and Congressman Blumenauer, the Act makes the US progressive income tax more regressive. Tax rates are lowered for everyone, but they are lowered the most for the highest-income taxpayers.

Several business people and one tax preparer spoke about the changes TCJA has had on them.

Joan, a mother of two and owner of a hair salon in Montavilla, was shocked when she ended up owing \$2,735 more than the previous year without a huge

## Clarifying PERS Benefits

BY DON MACGILLIVRAY

The Public Employee Retirement System(PERS) began in 1946 and includes many types of public service employees. The employee breakdown is: public school – forty-three percent, state government – twenty-nine percent, and municipal government – twenty-eight percent.

The PERS system was once easy to explain. Benefits equaled the employee contributions plus investment earnings. Three quarters of the money came from investment earnings managed by the Oregon Investment Council and the Oregon Treasury. Over the years this has been very successful.

A mandatory employee retirement contribution of six percent went into a separate retirement account, but since 2004, it's no longer used to support the pension fund. Now the six percent of PERS covered salaries go into money market accounts similar to 401(k)s, but retirees still receive their PERS defined pension benefit.

Since there is never enough money, the shortfall is paid by the state, schools, and municipalities. Recently the debt is \$22 billion and it's increasing. The more than nine hundred public employers are required to pay \$1.1 billion more to fund the system in the current biennium.

Many of the problems with PERS were initiated in the years between 1980

turn to page 19

turn to page 13

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## ON ON THE STREETS WHERE WE LIVE

By Nancy Tannler, Editor

Coming from the middle of the last century, my imprinting about society is a little different than those born in later generations.

What I sense is that we are a linchpin generation bridging the olden days to the techno era – or in more esoteric terms the Piscean age to the Age of Aquarius. Although when exactly this astrological date occurs is not quite clear, but something is happening here – I can see it in our cultural norms and feel it in the way things are changing.

I studied astrology for years, back when I had time on my hands as it was so fascinating. One of the best things I learned was how unique each one of us is given the multitude of possibilities of our birth chart.

Another teaching from that study was the astrological knowledge that we had come from the Piscean Age and are preparing for the moment when the March equinox point moves out of the constellation Pisces and into the constellation Aquarius.

During the Piscean era, the leaders of three of our major religions were born: Buddha, around 623 B.C.; Jesus around 6 B.C.; and Muhammad, in 571 A.D. Spiritually many of us raised in those religions were told early on what we were supposed to believe and who to be obedient to.

We were developing

an inner life and a personal connection but mostly to a monotheistic deity that had power over us. These powers have been losing ground as we shift towards the power of self. Now that the age of reason is upon us, the theme emerging among some is that we are the Christ, Buddha, Muhammad we've been waiting for.

On a more mundane level, I knew people who farmed with horses; people who didn't have a television when they were young; people who fought in WWI. These were the people that were described as Normal during my impressionable years.

They were focused on developing easier survival skills, experiencing more luxuries and finding time to be with family and friends. Their sphere of influence wasn't as far as it is today.

The shift to a faster paced, high tech, interconnected society became apparent to me in the nineties. Technology and a new ideology began altering everything from the way to communicate, to the way to do business, to food and shopping choices, to the ability to know what is going on in the world instantaneously. So many new processes were making things easier and faster once the system was learned.

Those born during the last thirty years just absorbed the technology and accepted the

speed with which things change. In addition, they have been made aware since birth that to continue on the path of their predecessors means extinction.

So who are these evolving people, the Gen Z's, Millennials, GenXer's? It is my opinion that because of their early imprinting, their highly developed brain capacities and nervous systems and with all the technological advances, they will create the leisure time to explore the highest realm of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs<sup>1</sup> – morality, creativity, spontaneity, problem solving, lack of prejudice, acceptance of facts – and act upon them.

They will have the ability to make different decisions knowing that they affect the greater good. The belief in advanced science and technology to improve human and environmental situations on earth will be put into action. They will tread more lightly and personify the values of brotherly love, unity and integrity – Jesus' message made real.

Our young are very connected and intertwined in each other lives. If their empathy and fidelity is any indication of taking this message to heart, then this is the great hope, the dawning of the Age of Aquarius.

<sup>1</sup>Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs is used to study how humans intrinsically partake in behavioral motivation.



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Serving residents of Hosford-Abernethy, Kerns, North Tabor, Laurelhurst, Montavilla, Mt. Tabor, Richmond, Buckman, South Tabor, Sunnyside neighborhoods. Circulation 26,000 (including 21,500 mailed copies). Founded in 1989  
Published the last Saturday of each month.

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## Letters to the Editor

### Dear Editor:

Thanks for your recent front-page article on the fact that crime in Portland keeps happening whether we listen or not.

It's no secret to anyone who pays attention to local and national news: there has been an erosion of trust in our police over the past few years. Ironically, so many of those who might verbally abuse our cops are the same people who day in and day out depend on them to keep our city safe.

With hundreds of officers retiring in the next few years and a national shortage of replacements, we must take responsibility for building trust in our police. After all, these are the people we ask to routinely face the aftermath of murders, suicides, shootings, robberies, drunk drivers and the rampant homelessness in our community -- all while potentially putting their lives at risk.

Imagine two years from now; if we as a society have made it so undesirable to be an officer that there's no one available to respond to emergencies.

This crisis is already unfolding at a national level and police departments across the country are not attracting applicants. New officers coming to Portland are arriving from out of state. Now is the time for us to show that we're not just weird, but welcoming.

We can do this by inviting officers into our businesses, neighborhoods, homes and families.

We need families willing to help integrate dozens of new officers into the fabric of our community. You can make a difference today, and it's easy. Just be yourself and be a friend.

Visit [facetofacepdx.org](http://facetofacepdx.org) for information on becoming a liaison family.

*Aaron Kirk Douglas*

### Letter to the Editor:

I would like to bring to your attention proposed Oregon legislation SB 10.

It would mandate a

change in the zoning laws to allow higher density: 45 to 75 units per acre (or app. five to nine units on a typical lot) for the entire area within ½ mile on either side of any bus service that runs at least every fifteen minutes during rush hours.

This would result in a huge swath of East Portland falling under this new high density requirement.

I believe it would be destructive of the numerous neighborhoods that make Portland so liveable.

I share the general concern about the need for more housing. However, it can be achieved without making all the neighborhoods into the same huge apartment development.

I see lots of four to six story apartments being built right now along major thoroughfares. This seems to me to be the way to bring higher density into our community, without destroying the unique quality of our individual neighborhoods.

*Eric Roost*

### Dear Editor:

Neither Erik Matthews' Letter to the Editor nor Midge Pierce's article about the RNA mentioned the two Board votes at the June 2018 Election meeting that prompted the Grievance filed by thirty-four people.

(1) The vote to appoint to the Board the three unelected candidates immediately after the election results were announced, overruling the vote-count, and (2) the vote to rescind sending Bylaws amendments to members for vote, without providing the seven day Agenda notice required by the Bylaws.

The Board basically disenfranchised the Members in the 2018 election cycle.

Grievances are allowed by the Bylaws and the city's Standards governing neighborhood associations -- they are the only way members can enforce the Bylaws and Open Meetings rules.

Matthews and Pierce also failed to mention that the SE Uplift Board found that there was a "clear violation" by the

former Chair of the "Open Meeting Rules per ONI Standards, RNA Bylaws, and the RNA Code of Ethics as outlined in the Grievance Complaint" on the vote to rescind the Bylaws vote.

However, SEUL ruled (based on three factual errors) that the Grievants were not harmed by the cancellation of their right to amend the Bylaws. The Grievants appealed that ruling and SEUL's failure to address several grievance issues.

The Appeal, which links to the underlying Grievance, is at [bit.ly/2YIYpbp](http://bit.ly/2YIYpbp).

Contrary to Matthews' characterization, RNA meetings the past eight months have not been contentious or hostile, Board Members have not been harassed or threatened -- the audio of those meetings on the RNA website will bear that out.

The RNA is now past the two grievances and the Recall is moot. The Board can work to prevent the problems that led to the two grievances.

The board should receive Open Meetings training and enact Best Practices to help avoid Open Meetings violations.

If someone asserts that a vote would violate the Bylaws or Open Meetings rules, the vote should be set over to a later meeting. The grievances could have been avoided if the votes were set over to a later meeting for further discussion and the community given proper notice of the issues.

The Board Member communicating a vote to the city must communicate that vote accurately without changing the Board's vote.

RNA should refrain from taking a position on contentious issues, especially divisive land use issues, which necessarily picks winners and losers.

Voting on such issues is contrary to its mission to "provide a forum to develop neighborhood cohesiveness and improve livability by coordinating neighborhood projects, disseminating information and promoting active involvement in neighborhood activities."

*Allen Fields*

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# State Bills Affecting Housing and Planning

By DAVID KROGH

Several bills in both the State House and Senate are being considered which will provide major changes to how future planning occurs and housing needs are met in Oregon.

Certain of these are highly controversial and all will impact SE Portland in various ways.

**HB2003:** This bill was discussed in *The Southeast Examiner* last month in great detail. It requires cities to redo their housing needs assessments to better address the State Housing Goal in order to meet “missing middle” obligations.

This bill was sponsored by House Speaker Tina Kotek and is specifically intended to require cities to do better in addressing housing needs than has occurred thus far.

A public hearing was held by the House Committee on Agriculture and Land Use on March 5 and continued to March 21. Additional information and testimony is available at bit.ly/2TotuY4. The Committee is discussing modifications to this bill.

**HB2001:** Like HB2003, this bill was originated by Speaker Kotek and requires cities with populations greater than 10,000 and counties with populations greater than 15,000 to allow middle density types of housing in lands zoned for single-family dwellings within urban growth boundary.

Middle density housing

includes duplexes, triplexes and fourplexes. This bill is a State legislative mandate on cities and counties and, per Taylor Smiley Wolfe of Speaker Kotek’s office, is intended to require jurisdictions to address missing middle densities not adequately accommodated by local comprehensive plans.

The House Committee on Human Services and Housing held a hearing on HB2001 on February 11 and is reviewing potential modifications March 18.

Additional information is available at the following link: bit.ly/2uoJ7EH.

Much controversy has come out of this bill, and some aspects of which have been added to Portland’s proposed Residential Infill Project (RIP), which will be considered by the Portland City Council this summer.

Misinformation abounds regarding both the rationale and potential results from both HB2001 and RIP. If HB2003 is adopted, it could negate the need for HB2001 by mandating fresh housing need assessments statewide.

**HB2075:** This bill establishes a Development Readiness Program within the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) to assist local governments with land use goals relating to housing and economic development.

It establishes a Development Readiness Fund to fund this program with \$2.03 million, to be transferred from the State General Fund.

DLCD has a history of providing planning assistance to local jurisdictions, especially when they need to comply with State planning mandates.

This bill would provide assistance, particularly in terms of complying with HB2001, HB2003 and SB10, which create planning and housing mandates to cities.

Governor Kate Brown requested this bill for DLCD and the House Committee on Agriculture and Land Use held an initial hearing January 29.

To keep track of this bill and testimony for it, see: bit.ly/2HV5Znc.

**SB10:** This was sponsored by Senator Peter Courtney and establishes density requirements within urban growth boundaries in the Metropolitan Service District (Metro) as well as with populations of more than 10,000, in areas adjacent to transportation corridors and zoned to allow residential development.

Areas residentially designated within a quarter mile of a priority transit corridor (light rail, bus rapid transit, or 15 minute bus service during peak periods) would be required to have a density of not less than seventy-five units per acre.

Areas out to a half-mile radius would be required to have a density of forty-five units per acre.

For cities not within the Metro area, densities for such

turn to page 17

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# Neighborhood Notes

## South Tabor

By Ute Munger

Time flies and May elections are just around the corner. Two terms as President for Duane Hanson are up and sadly we need to turn him loose. The search for a comparable replacement is on. Anyone? Don't be shy! It may not be easy to follow his leadership and we will miss his enthusiasm and kindness. Thank you Duane.

At the March general meeting, two settled-in neighbors generously offered to fill the vacant Vice President and Secretary posts. Welcome Ben Chatterton and Juan Cummings. Our amiable interim Secretary Tina Kimmey will be greatly relieved, as she is also busy being the SEUL Delegate and had to miss this meeting due to a seasonal encounter with the flu.

Look in this issue of *The SE Examiner* (page 10) for the ad announcing South Tabor Neighborhood Association's first ever Pancake Breakfast. A great deal of planning has gone into this undertaking and generously, Trinity Fellowship is allowing the STNA to use their approved kitchen for preparation. Come see us and get a historical first bite on Saturday, April 27 from 9 am to noon. Cost is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children under ten years old. Find us at Trinity Fellowship at 2700 SE 67th, between Clinton and Taggart.

Flyers for signature collection are available to neighbors for the Vision Zero Safety Pledge to promise individual commitment to remain safe and alert when driving.

Download forms and request yard signs from [sharon.white@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:sharon.white@portlandoregon.gov). They can remind people driving to slow down and LOOK for kids and seniors, STOP for people crossing, and WATCH for people biking.

A longtime struggle with various traffic problems has plagued the former Trolley route on SE Woodward, specifically between 60th and 62nd, where the street bends and narrows to make it dangerous for all traffic participants. Woodward is a heavily-traveled street since it is a direct route to Franklin High School and a secondary one to Atkinson Elementary School. Visitors to Clinton Park for the green space, the playground and tennis courts experience high traffic activity at most times. Stay safe, get your yard sign and place it prominently.

The STNA land use committee is continuing its discussion of safety, reviewing a recent land use proposal, and sharing updates on citywide projects. Meanwhile enjoy sunny days and have a most joyous Happy Easter.

The next neighborhood meeting, open to all, is April 18 at 7 pm at Trinity Fellowship, 2700 SE 67th. Enter from the back parking lot.

## Laurelhurst

By John Liu

The Laurelhurst Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, culminating a twenty-five year effort beginning in 1991. The most recent effort involved hundreds of Laurelhurst volunteers. In the 2017 neighborhood vote, eighty-three percent of voting residents supported the historic district. During the nomination process, fewer than one percent of property owners objected to the historic listing.

Friends of Laurelhurst Park pruning/work parties start April 10, 9 am. Meet at the blue-green Parks building at 3600 SE Ankeny St, the park's north side. Bring work gloves; tools are supplied.

The Laurelhurst Neighborhood Cleanup is May 11, 9 am to 1 pm at Laurelhurst School. \$15 fee per car, \$25 per pickup truck/SUV, higher fees for other vehicles, and additional donations gladly accepted.

Items accepted include scrap wood, household items, books and clothing, furniture, some electronics and appliances other than refrigerators and air conditioners. The cleanup will not accept construction or demolition waste, yard waste, chemicals or oil, or other potentially hazardous substances. For hazardous waste disposal, see [oregonmetro.gov](http://oregonmetro.gov). Volunteers are sought and will be fed.

Elections for the Laurelhurst Neighborhood Association will be held May 28, 7 pm at All Saints Parish on NE Glisan at Coe Circle. All Laurelhurst residents, businesses or non-profit organizations are eligible to vote.

Laurelhurst's Garage Sale is June 22. Mark your calendars!

## Mt. Tabor

By Laura Smith

Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association (MTNA) holds its annual board elections Wednesday, May 15, at 7 pm at Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church, SE 54th and Belmont St. MTNA is a nonprofit organization that provides an open process for all members of the neighborhood to involve themselves in the affairs of the neighborhood.

If you live, own property, maintain a business, or represent a nonprofit within the geographical boundaries of MTNA, you are eligible for membership. Attend our monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of every month (except December) to see how you can contribute to the neighborhood. Visit our website to find out more: [mttaborpdx.org](http://mttaborpdx.org).

The annual neighborhood cleanup co-sponsored by the Mt. Tabor and North Tabor Neighborhood Associations takes place Saturday, April 27, in the parking lot of Mt. Tabor Middle School from 9 am-1 pm. Minimum donation is \$20 for a small load (car or sedan), \$30 for a medium load (SUV or small truck), and \$40 for a large load (large truck, van or trailer). Styrofoam recycling is available for an additional \$5 fee.

Bring yard debris, wood, computers and peripherals, cellphones, small electronics, furniture, carpets, mattresses, metal, glass you can't recycle curbside, hardware, clothing, bicycles, toys, and car seats.

We CANNOT accept food waste, construction materials (plaster, concrete, dirt, sheet rock, roofing, etc.), hazardous materials (tires, paint, aerosol cans, batteries, liquids or chemicals of any kind, poisons, toxins, herbicides, fluorescent lightbulbs, etc.), large appliances, or anything you can recycle curbside.

Mt. Tabor Park Weed Warrior work parties have begun. The season runs March through October on the last Saturday of each month. For info, check Friends of Mt. Tabor Park's website: [taborfriends.org](http://taborfriends.org).

The next meeting of the MTNA will be Wednesday, April 17 at 7 pm at Mt Tabor Presbyterian Church with social time starting 6:50 pm. For information, visit [mttaborpdx.org](http://mttaborpdx.org).

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# New and Revised Taxation Plans

By Don MacGillivray

With the Oregon legislature in search of more funding for public schools, various new or revised tax plans are being advanced. Democrats believe that a new tax of approximately \$2 billion is necessary to adequately fund Oregon's schools and the rest of the state budget.

More revenue is needed because the average spending per student in Oregon's schools is \$1,000 less than the national average and it would take \$1 billion per year to bring Oregon to within six percent of this national average. If this were to become possible, fifteen states would still outspend Oregon's schools.

Another factor is that the Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) debt is taking \$1.4 billion away from what otherwise could be used to fund public education and this situation is slowly getting worse. In this legislative session, an alliance between labor and business is advocating for a solution to the educational shortfall with a significant tax increase.

The most popular method seems to be through a gross receipts tax based on business sales, similar to Measure 97, defeated in 2016.

In 2017, another version of this form of taxation was unsuccessful. Various committees in the Oregon legislature are attempting to find a formula that can be successfully passed by the voters in an upcoming election.

The discussion to reduce the PERS deficit is being suggested. Many hope a successful way can be found to fund Oregon Schools at the rate required to bring them above the national average while repairing the retirement system.

The Oregon legislature and organizations knowledgeable about Oregon's tax structure believe the property tax system is broken. This has been discussed over the years while the situation continues to become worse, leaving Oregon's school children as the losers.

However, there soon may be a solution to this dilemma proposed during this legislative session in Salem.

Voters adopted Measure 5 in 1990 to provide property tax relief for most taxpayers. Seven years later Measures 47 and 50, were passed and added to the Oregon Constitution to improve upon Measure 5.

These changes have grown to become unfair and inequitable to the majority of property owners. The basic problem revolves around differences between the property assessed value and its market value. These measures reduced the assessed value of properties so much that the annual tax payments have little relationship to the market value of the properties.

The assessed value cannot increase by more than three percent per year and the market value often increases by much more. When a property is sold there is a significant adjustment upward by the County, changing the assessed value to more closely reflect the real market value.

Therefore the same home that has not been sold on the

market for many years will pay a much lower property tax than a property of a similar market value that recently has been purchased.

This difference in property taxes on the two homes can vary by several hundred percent and the difference usually increases over time.

The gap between real market value and assessed value has grown to be an average of thirty-five per cent statewide. Most of the older homes in the inner east side of Portland benefit from this situation.

Property tax revisions under consideration in the Oregon legislature would most likely improve Oregon's tax system and school funding for everyone.

Metro is also seeking ways to fund a bond measure for transit and transportation to meet the needs of the Portland region, estimated to be \$47 billion over the next twenty-five years.

If not addressed, streets and roads will become more congested and deteriorate further, negatively impacting Portland's commercial enterprises.

Metro recently polled the electorate and found that the average household would support \$200 million in additional taxes. A property tax levy of this magnitude could generate \$2.2 billion.

One of Metro's next projects is to find funding for the SW Portland Max line, in the planning for many years. All that is needed is funding to begin its implementation.

Last spring, Metro reported on new ideas on how to fund transportation. Already on the table were more common ways to increase revenue such as taxes on sales, property, business, and/or income. A local expert in the fields of economics and politics provided several ideas that may also be considered.

- \$5 million could be raised by taxing luxuries such as jewelry selling for over \$5,000 and fashion items more than \$1,000.

- \$18 million could be generated with an annual fee for properties left vacant or undeveloped as has been done in San Francisco, California.

- \$19 million could be raised if the exponential increase in the use of personal, handheld smartphones were taxed.

- \$90 million would be provided if people earning over \$125,000 were taxed an additional 0.5 percent of their income.

- \$147 million could be raised with a sales tax of 5 percent on food service in restaurants.

- \$300 million could be generated with a carbon tax of \$10 per ton in the metro area that would help improve the environment and slow climate change.

The combined total of these is a little over half a billion dollars per year, only about a quarter of future transportation funding needs.

Of course, this still leaves other critical needs such as housing, education, public safety, social services, and healthcare underfunded.

No decisions have been made and discussions are ongoing. Whatever is decided will likely be on the ballot in November of 2020.



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CN

Community News

### Saleabration at Unique Boutique

Northstar Unique Boutique, 5600 NE Glisan St., will celebrating its two-year anniversary throughout the month of April and special discounts will be offered and refreshments served.

The name has been changed to reflect the shop’s connection to NorthStar, an evidence-based rehabilitation program for those with mental health issues.

Formerly known as The Next R, Unique Boutique features a collection of antique, vintage and one-of-a-kind items, perfect for gifting or personal acquisition.

There’s a range of household items, books, art, crafting materials and furnishings too. Proceeds from sales help support the cost for this free mental health program.

NorthStar participants have the opportunity to learn and demonstrate useful job skills in the shop and other areas such as pre-

paring simple, healthy and low cost lunches each day, learning computer skills or assisting with overall operations of the clubhouse.

You can drop off rinsed, uncrushed redeemable bottles and cans for its Bottle Drop fundraiser or support this program by donating items to sell.

In order to meet a one-to-one match for general support up to \$3000 for the operation of NorthStar Clubhouse, cash donations are being sought to match the gift from the Ed Cauduro Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation.

*NorthStar, 5600 NE Glisan St., is open 9-5 weekdays. The shop is open weekdays 11 am – 4:45 pm.*

*For information, contact NorthStar at 971.271.7273 or leave a message at 971.231.4875. Email info@northstaror.org.*

### Celebrate Common Table and Common Ground

Colonial Heights Presbyterian and Metropolitan Community Church invite you to Easter and Holy Week observances. Pastors Nathan Meckley and Linda Stewart-Kalen will officiate.

• **Maudy Thursday Observance April 18** – Dinner at 6 pm and communion service at 7:30 pm

• **Easter Sunday Events Sunday April 21** – Easter sunrise worship at Washington Park (above Rose Garden and below tennis courts). Welcome Resurrection as the sun rises over Mt. Hood. Dress for the weather and bring a folding chair.

• **Easter Sunday Breakfast** – begins at 8:30 am, 2828 SE Stephens St. Share breakfast in preparation for Easter Sunday worship.

• **Resurrection Sunday Worship** – 10:30 am.

All are welcome. For more information and details about activities for children, contact MCC Portland, 503.281.8868; mccportland.com

All events except Sunrise at Colonial Heights Presbyterian Church, 2828 SE Stephens St. 503.236.2430; chpcpd.org.

### EarthTalk® gas guzzling to electric

**Dear EarthTalk: I saw a news item about overhauling classic old cars with electric engines, and wondering if this can be done with any old car, such as my 1999 Subaru Outback? If this is feasible, maybe I should reconsider my plan of trading up for a new Prius. Tim St. Germain, Boise, ID**

It’s true that there’s never been a better time to convert an old gas guzzling car into an emissions-free electric vehicle (EV), but some makes and models are better suited for a so-called “EV swap” than others.

Michael Bream of San Marcos, California’s EV West, made news recently with its conversions of old VWs and Porsches into EVs. You could convert a ‘99 Subaru – but EV Swaps are typi-

cally reserved for classic cars.

A newer Subaru has a ULEV certified (low emission) engine, so it’s not as bad a polluter as a classic car, and doesn’t suffer from reliability and power issues that classic cars typically suffer from.

A typical conversion of a Subaru would cost about the same with parts and labor as a brand-new all-wheel drive Tesla Model 3. The closest shop to Portland is Electric Vehicles of Washington (Bellingham, WA)

If you want to do it yourself (or find a local mechanic looking for an interesting project), lots of companies now sell EV conversion kits (Canadian Electric Vehicles, Electro Automotive, Wilderness Electric Vehicles, DIY EV, EV Source, Metric Mind Corporation, EV Drive). These include

### LWV Candidates Forum

Portland League of Women Voters (LWV) April Forum provides first-hand knowledge of Portland Public Schools Board Candidates for the May 21 election.

The forum is Thursday April 11, at 6:30 pm in Portland Public Schools Board Room, 501 N Dixon St. It is free and open to the public and will be recorded with video available afterwards at: lwvpdx.org.

VOTE411.org is the non-partisan internet site with candidates on your ballot for this May 21 Special District Election (includes board candidates for all school districts in Multnomah County including community colleges and Multnomah Education Services District). The website goes live around April 3.

The LWV Voters’ Guide online is at lwvpdx.org. It is in print at the April 11 Portland Public Schools Board Candidate Forum and then as quickly as possible to Multnomah County Library branches.

For information contact, Maud Naroll, forums@lwvpdx.org



new engines, batteries and components.

Expect to spend about \$8,000 on all the parts needed for the job. The labor will be up to you.

DIYers should check out *How to Build Your own Electric Vehicle in 5 Easy Steps* at EVRater.com or Mechanic Doctor’s *How to Convert Your Car to an Electric Vehicle* for step-by-step instructions. California’s EV4U runs 3-Day Hands-On Conversion Workshops near Sacramento for \$495.

With a new base model Prius starting at \$23k, you may well be better off doing the EV Swap on your old car.

The operating costs of driving a Prius hybrid (\$0.14/mile) are about four times what it costs to get around in an EV (whether native or a conversion).

### 82nd Avenue of Roses Parade



The 12th Annual 82nd Avenue of Roses Parade will be held April 27. Roses in the City of Portland is the theme, and many entrants are already on board.

It is a fun and festive affair celebrating this year’s Grand Marshall, Helen Raptis, Host of KATU’s AM Northwest.

The parade starts at 9:30 am just north of Eastport Plaza on Bush St., 4000 SE 82nd Ave.

Currently the largest eastside parade, it has been instrumental in the renaissance of 82nd Ave. by embracing the shopping and service area for eastside neighbors and businesses.

The Friesian Horses join the Parade again this year as it heads

north in the geographic center of Portland, on 82nd Ave, turning and finishing in the Montavilla District, on Yamhill St. at 78th Ave.

The Beat Goes on Marching Band and the Last Regiment of Syncopated Drummers are crowd favorites and will perform again.

To be a volunteer or for a Parade Entrant Form, email 82ndAvenueParade@gmail.com.

After the Parade, residents and friends are invited to attend New Year in the Park, a free family friendly event that celebrates Cambodian, Lao, Thai and Burmese New Years at Glenhaven Park on 82nd Ave and Siskiyou from 9:30-6 pm.

### Plastic recycling – Hallelujah!

Plastics have become a ubiquitous and important material in all of our everyday lives.

They provide low cost, high utility and convenience for everything from preserving food, facilitating communications, providing transportation and keeping us all safe.

Unfortunately, as plastics use has increased and become more of our lifestyle over the last fifty years, we have all done a poor job in helping recycle plastics to become a highly valuable renewable resource.

The good news is that there is a place to recycle plastic that our local recyclers don’t take.

Agilyx has spent the last fourteen years creating a solutions platform that can take a wide variety of waste plastics and polymers, and chemically recycle those plastics into high value synthetic oils, chemicals and in some cases back to basic monomers that can be used to re-manufacture products.

Their chemical recycling processes can be performed at a significantly improved environmental profile than traditional manufacturing.

They will accept:

• Polystyrene (No. 6) that includes GPPS disposable cups, cutlery and dinnerware, take out containers, cookie trays, bakery domed lids, produce baskets, pie containers, CD jewel cases and hangers.

• EPS hot beverage cups, insulated coolers, protective packaging for electronics, toys and other durable goods,

• XPS food service applications include meat trays egg cartons, takeout clamshells, foam plates and trays

• HIPS cold drink cups, plates, lids stirrers, yogurt containers, creamer containers, disposable condiment containers, CD jewel cases, toys.

They do not take construction foam board or starch packing peanuts.

*The drop box is at 904 SW Hunziker St. Tigard, OR and is open 24/7.*

*For business or larger quantities: (more than a truck) contact Ismael Madrigal at 503.906.5236 to schedule a drop off.*

*There is no drop off fee.*



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## Neighborhood Pancake Breakfast

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details: southtabor.org



Powell Boulevard

Southeast 82nd Avenue

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Business Walkabout

# Animal Traffic’s new chapter in SE

By PETER ZIMMERMAN

After years in NE, Animal Traffic is starting fresh at 134 SE Taylor St #201. The store has been around since 2009 and features high quality brands and reasonably priced Western shirts, boots and other vintage clothes, plus new accessories by American brands.

Although this is a new start for owner Tom Erickson, this is not Animal Traffic’s first time in SE. Erickson started out in a small shop on Division, where he sold his personal vintage collection and people started buying, and Animal Traffic grew.

With a business model based on providing authentic, quality merchandise at a good value, Erickson was able to move to a larger location on Mississippi St., and opened a second location, a footwear store, and even had a coffeshop.

Animal Traffic became known for under-represented brands like Fjallraven and Duluth Backpacks, and heritage brands like Woolrich, and for years, the business thrived.

Then, in 2017, business began to slow, and Erickson was forced to downsize and close multiple locations and eventu-

ally leave the flagship location on Mississippi St.

He became part of a new, up and coming community on the central eastside, among businesses like Cargo, Bunk Bar and Trew Gear.

After the downsize, Erickson went back to what got him started – quality merchandise and a customer focused approach.

The store sports heritage brands like Filson and Danner Boots, as well as products made by local craftspeople, like jewelry leather and bags, and will always be a place to purchase quality vintage.

Faced with an ever-changing retail marketplace where it

seems like everything is being purchased online, Erickson believes in a local, community-based approach.

Animal Traffic does have social media channels and an online store, but is focused on establishing relationships with customers, and being a place where people can come and discover something new, and trust that they are getting the best product.

As Erickson says, “We’re a place where you can come sit on a cool couch and try on some cool clothes.”

Animal Traffic can be found at [animaltrafficpdx.com](http://animaltrafficpdx.com), 503.249.4000

# Vespa Portland combines community and fun

By PETER ZIMMERMAN

Since last year, Vespa Portland, the Pacific Northwest’s largest scooter store, has been under new management. Taking over after the retirement of the previous owners, current owner Andrew Callaci has created an inclusive atmosphere for the Portland Scooter Community, hosting events, movie screenings and more at the shop on SE Martin Luther King Blvd.

Callaci had just returned from riding a scooter from Mexico City to Guadalajara, and grew up riding BMX bikes in San Diego. He loved that the local bike shop was the heart of the BMX scene. It was a place where he

could go, not just for bikes and gear, but to meet up and be a part of the community. It is that management model he brings to Vespa Portland.

The shop sports a large inventory of scooters. There are small, 49cc entry-level scooters that only need a driver’s license to be ridden, and 300cc scooters that can top out at 90 mph. The store is not just Vespas; the store sells Italian Piaggio scooters, Genze full electric scooters and Ural sidecar motorcycles.

The scooter scene here is vibrant, with everyone from Nike executives to loan-strapped students making their way through the Vespa Portland store, and boasts local clubs like

Twist’n’play.

The popularity of scooters makes sense too. It costs about \$5 to fill the tank, they’re easy to park and can cost as little as \$2500 brand new. Of course, the real reason, as Callaci says, is they’re just fun.

Unlike a car, where you are closed off from the world outside, scooters allow you to interact with the landscape, to feel the wind in your hair, and with no shifting to speak of, you just turn the throttle and go.

Vespa Portland is located at 205 SE Martin Luther King Blvd. and hosts A Nod to Mod, a scooter and bike themed fashion show April 12.

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in SE Portland

Old windows that work



Inner Portland neighborhoods consist mainly of houses that predate the 1950s and we all know the frustration of having windows that won't open.

Patty Spencer had this same problem, but she was an Environmental Engineer and figuring out how things worked is what she does best.

So when the bathroom window of her craftsman house wouldn't open, she took it apart and learned how it operated.

Eventually every window in the house could open both up and down and she had the idea for her business, Fresh Air Sash Cord Repair, Inc., – celebrating twenty years as a successful business this April.

Spencer remembers the day her four year old son put her business registration in the mail box, and he's twenty four now.

She started building the business slowly by working in the late afternoons while a sitter watched the kids until their dad got home. Eventually they went to school, and she went to work full time. Now Fresh Air Sash Cord Repair has two other female employees.

"I have a passion for detail, a light touch and I stand behind

my work," Spencer said. This ensures that when the job is done, her customers are satisfied and have windows that open and close easily both up and down.

The business follows the requirements of the 1978 lead ban to a "T" so a bubble is created around the project to keep the house and workers dust free and safe.

Spencer advises that people consider repairing windows before replacing them.

"The quality of craftsmanship in an older home means the windows will last as long as the house."

Replacement windows don't always withstand the test of time and end up in the landfill. Fresh Air is an advocate for the Reduce, ReUse, ReCycle mantra.

They'll make a rough estimate of costs and will come to your place in person when you decide to proceed. Then they'll give you a time line for comple-



tion.

"We like to do at least two windows at a time and in the summer months, seven, since we have to haul a lot of equipment," she said.

See [freshairsash.com](http://freshairsash.com) or call 503.284.7693. NT

*Spencer is giving a presentation The Basics of Wood Window Repair at the Architectural Heritage Center, 701 SE Grand Avenue, April 27, 10 am-Noon, The workshop is \$12, \$8 for AHC members. Reserve a space at [freshairsash.com](http://freshairsash.com) or [visitahc.org](http://visitahc.org).*

Reinventing Cargo

By JACK RUBINGER

Cargo has reinvented itself from a standard retail model into an international bazaar/small business incubator. It's an emporium with several new stores all housed under the same roof amidst an extravagantly colorful collage of sights, smells, tastes and touches.

Cargo is now home to Giraffe (modeled after a Japanese convenience store); Bloke Botanical (plants, flowers, pottery); Tasi Jewelry & Gifts; Hello! Goodmorning!; Rx Letterpress; and the Loaded Hips Press. The printing press folks make their goods right in the basement and sell their wares upstairs.

Celebrating five years of success in the same central East-side business district location, partners Bridgid Blackburn and Patty Merrill, are excited about the future, fostering long-term relationships with resources in India, Thailand and Japan and seeing these start-ups thrive with their support. The two have worked together almost twenty-five years. Cargo is best known for exotic clothing, jewelry, home and decor, textiles and crafts.

Walking around the space, one would be hard-pressed to find anything grey, black or beige. Instead, vibrant purples, oranges, ruby reds pop out everywhere you look. An old school Australian photo booth captures the adventure and excitement of the



experience.

"We've got all of these voices sharing the message of what they're doing, all prospering from one another and everyone brings their own following," said Blackburn.

Is the concept working? According to Blackburn and Merrill, all tenants exceeded projections and numbers in the holiday season.

To continue the momentum and goodwill they've established, Cargo is doing a store-wide event May 5 to honor Children's Day, originally a Japanese holiday. Expect cooking classes, a saké tasting and crafting classes for kids.

"We decided that it makes

a lot sense to partner up with complementary small businesses and provide them with an inviting retail space," said Merrill. "With the high cost of renting, we all benefit from word of mouth, each entity has its own following and yet all make sure sense together."

In choosing new business community members, the partners sought complementary type of micro-businesses, like Tasi – a local jeweler which Cargo has carried for years. Under this new entity, this is Tasi's first retail experience

One of Cargo's most stunning departments is their out-

turn to page 13



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# RNA Carries On

BY MIDGE PIERCE

Perplexed Richmond residents filled tables, pushed together in a symbolic gesture of welcome, as the Neighborhood Association held its March meeting despite the absence of a board majority and resignation of its Chair.

The twelve missing board members, on a self-proclaimed “pause”, had resigned their officer posts following appeals for a recall of the Chair and grievances signed by thirty-five residents declaring procedural discrepancies in last year’s elections.

As onsite attending officer Brian Hochhalter tried to stick to a full agenda, the elephant in the room was how the association had gotten to this point.

The dozen or so new attendees pressed for answers. Grievance filer Allen Field, via phone hookup, explained that open meetings, transparent elections and bylaws are bedrock tenets that should be followed.

Former board members in attendance added accusations that some absent board members had blocked, edited or removed

meeting and agenda notices, essentially holding the NA hostage.

The lack of a quorum meant that replacement officers could not be elected, a vote to withdraw grievances could not be held and routine business such as paying rent to Waverly Church could not be conducted.

Hochhalter said the neighborhood list-serve was inaccessible and appealed to SE Uplift to retrieve a password kept by an absentee member.

He expressed frustration that SEUL was not being more proactive in providing mediation for a divided community. In its initial ruling, SEUL acknowledged bylaw violations had occurred, but indicated no harm had been caused.

In the wake of grievance charges, former chair Matt Otis has been vocal online that he had been wronged. At the meeting, however, several attendees countered that they had been the ones bullied by heavy-handedness from the chair that stopped discussions on contentious development issues.

Field, who had objected to board members being installed even though they had not been elected, wondered why vote if everyone is just appointed.

The next election is in May.

# Cargo

from page 11

standing collection of Japanese wooden Kokeshi dolls, a traditional art form started by rice farmers. Some squeak, some cry, no two are alike and all make great housewarming or baby shower gifts.

A new clothing department features hand-blocked cotton tops from India. The amazing store display by Amy Miller is also worth noting.

“Patty has been working with vendors from Thailand, Indonesia and India for 20+ years,” said Blackburn. “She’s watched them get married and have children. We create relationships with people and stay in business with them for a long time. They’re not corporate giants. In many ways, we mirror them.”

Years ago, the partners bought a piece of the building, so they have control of their destiny and the resources to pass it all onto other artists and vendors who are just starting.

Cargo is open everyday from 11 am - 6 pm at 81 SE Yamhill St. Online at [cargoinc.com](http://cargoinc.com) / phone 503.209.8349.

# Parsing Out the PERS Pensions

from cover

and 1990 when the governing board was dominated by public employee interests that modified contractual formulas in their favor. Lawmakers never intended that the benefits should be so generous.

This occurred because of a period of high stock market returns. Because the rate of return was calculated on what was happening in the 1990s market it was set at 7.2 percent. When the market went down, the fund fell into deficit and it has never been appropriately changed in spite of several major attempts to do so.

At the end of 2017 there were 145,863 PERS retirees. They were divided into three Tiers.

Tier 1 employees were hired before 1996 and they were able to retire at the age of fifty-eight after thirty years of service with the most generous benefit package. They now include eighty-eight percent of the total number of PERS retirees.

Tier 2 employees were hired between 1996 and 2003 and they need to wait until age sixty to retire with somewhat reduced benefits. They include nine percent of the total number of employees.

Tier 3 was created in 2003 when the PERS system was in crisis. It was changed so employees must wait until age sixty-five to retire and a supplemental contribution plan was created in such a way that they no longer paid into the system. They are the remaining three percent of the employees hired within the last sixteen years. Oregon is now the only state pension system in the country that requires no contribution from employees.

There is much discussion

about the average annual pension payment going to PERS recipients. Everyone always seems to be concerned that the deficit is too big because too many people are getting too much money. Only about one percent of PERS retirees, or about 2,000 former public employees, receive over \$100,000 a year. The initial average is about \$36,000 a year.

In 1990 they received less than half of this amount. The median age among retirees was sixty-two and their average years of service was twenty-six. Nearly 70,000 employees, nearly half of the total retirees, receive less than \$24,000 a year and about another quarter receive less than \$12,000 a year.

Since 2003, public employees also pay into and receive Social Security. There is a great deal of variation due to the specific situations of each retiree so generalizations often are not useful. The highest paid person receives \$913,000 a year, but this is only fifty-eight percent of a \$1.6 million salary received in their last year of employment at Oregon Health Sciences University.

The body in charge of PERS, along with many political and governmental entities, have been trying for over two decades to improve the retirement system. Some improvements adopted were challenged and eventually overturned by the Oregon Supreme Court leaving the status quo unchanged. There have been other successful changes, but none that were significant enough to solve the problems.

The Oregon Business Council has a number of suggested pension changes for lawmakers in Salem to review this session, but the possibilities for reform are limited.

Much of the talk is around the \$2 billion tax increase as a

temporary solution to the PERS and school budget issues. The three suggestions made at the Oregon Leadership Summit were: 1) employee cost-sharing, 2) have employees choose between a pension plan or an expanded defined contribution plan, but not both, or 3) a working retirement payback plan.

The unfunded liability will grow by about \$4 billion to a total of \$26 billion. There soon will be another \$2 billion in increases in the statewide pension costs and other rate increases within the next two years. The real solution may be a ballot measure sent to the voters in the near future, but this has yet to be determined.

Given the fact that demands on the financial situation is projected to get consistently worse over the next twenty years, some stakeholders are concerned about the possibility of bankruptcy. This is not expected because it is the state and local governments that are required to fund PERS and they would need to declare bankruptcy.

This has happened in other places such as in Stockton, California and in Detroit, Michigan, but Oregon statutes do not allow the state or a municipality to declare bankruptcy.

Another factor in these considerations is how current employees will react to any change that might reduce benefits. With one third of the current public employees in the PERS system able to retire at any time, a significantly unfavorable change could cause a spike in retirements and make it difficult to replace experienced employees with new ones.

While the financial burden of the PERS fund has been changed and reduced over time, it is important that everyone is pleased.



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Abraham Maslow’s definition of ‘real’ listening: to listen “without presupposing, classifying, improving, controverting, evaluating, approving or disapproving, without dueling what is being said, without rehearsing the rebuttal in advance, without free-associating to portions of what is being said so that succeeding portions are not heard at all.”



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Go **Going Out**



Scotland's Tannahill Weavers bring their dynamic version of traditional Celtic music to The Aladdin Theater, Saturday, April 6 in a 9 pm show. The Weavers' repertoire spans the centuries with fire-driven instrumentals and original ballads and traditional lullabies and honors the musical heritage of the Celtic people. The band has received worldwide accolades for energizing performances and their outstanding recordings.

As they enter their fifty-first year in 2019, the Tannahill Weavers are one of Scotland's premier bands. Named for the town's historic weaving industry and local poet laureate Robert Tannahill, the group has made an international name for its special brand of Scottish music, blending the beauty of traditional melodies with the power of modern rhythms. Get a preview of the band at [tannahillweavers.com](http://tannahillweavers.com)

The Aladdin Theatre is at 3017 SE Milwaukie Ave. Tickets are available through Aladdin Theatre - [bit.ly/2Wfu9wK](http://bit.ly/2Wfu9wK)

**Road songs and Ropin songs**



photo by Brenda Ladd

Artichoke Music hosts a rare afternoon record release concert with two award winning songwriters, Claudia Nygaard and Cowboy Poet Tom Swearingen on Saturday, May 4 beginning at 3 pm.

With a voice "like amber honey" powerful and clear, Claudia Nygaard tours tirelessly, and has torn up the highways of all fifty states and nine foreign countries and she's bringing her new CD *Lucky Girl* along for us lucky fans. Her songs are heartfelt, humorous, tough and tender, and her tales are emotionally fearless and downright captivating. A staff songwriter on Nashville's Music Row, Nygaard will surely shine in the Café's intimate space. [claudianygaard.com](http://claudianygaard.com).

Tom Swearingen is an Oregon horseman who tells stories of the people and land of the American West through original cowboy poetry. Inspired by his own experiences and observations from the saddle, he's been a headline performer at western music and cowboy poetry festivals throughout the west. Swearingen is releasing a new CD too called *Language of the Land*. [oregoncowboypoet.com](http://oregoncowboypoet.com).

Artichoke is at 2007 SE Powell Blvd. Doors open at 2:30 pm. Tickets are \$15 in advance or at the door, online at [BrownPaperTickets.com](http://BrownPaperTickets.com).



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5	<b>MASON JENNINGS</b>	19	<b>DAWG TRIO</b> featuring DAVID GRISMAN SAM GRISMAN DANNY BARNES
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arts & performance

**Wolf at the Door**

Wolf at the Door is a new play by Marisela Treviño Orta, directed by Rebecca Martinez. Milagro Theatre is producing it as part of the National New Play Network Rolling World Premiere along with three other theatre companies around the country.

In Orta's story, Isadora stands up to her abusive husband, Séptimo, as he forces the very pregnant Yolot to stay against her will. While Séptimo makes plans for the baby, Isadora and Yolot devise a plan of their own. A pack of wolves closes in on the hacienda, and Isadora must decide the price she'll pay for her own freedom.

The play is part of a cycle of fairy tales Orta is writing inspired by Latino folklore and mythology.

Wolf at the Door is presented May 2-25, Thursdays-Saturdays at 7:30 pm, Sunday at 2 pm. The preview night is Thursday, May 2 at 7:30 with opening night the next night May 3. Milagro Theatre is at 525 SE Stark St.

Tickets are \$27 in advance, \$32 at the door. There are group and special discounts for seniors, veterans, students, Arts for All and more. Contact [milagro.org](http://milagro.org) or 503.236.7253.

**Shirley Nanette's 'Never Coming Back'**

Shirley Nanette, long recognized by the regional music community for her dynamic vocal sensibilities, has performed jazz and classical works at national festivals, on television, and with the Oregon Symphony.

Way back in 1973, Nanette released an LP entitled *Never Coming Back* which has become a historical gem. The disc featured an exceptional cast of musicians from Portland's Albina neighborhood, and the record has been lauded as a critical piece of Portland psychedelic, soul music history.

The original pressings have become highly collectible and the album sounds timeless. The very original songs by the great Hank Swann are contagious and colorful and his tasty guitar propels the grooves through many creative stylings. It is Nanette's voice that brings it all together, expressive and real.

On Saturday April 13, Shirley Nanette and The Albina Soul Revue Band will perform her entire 1973 album live for the first time at Holocene beginning at 9 pm.

The band, an intergenerational group of Portland musicians under the direction of Tony Ozier, is a dream team of pedigreed musicians and includes Kenney Polson (Gil Scott-Heron, Jimmy Heath, Wynton Marsalis), Danny Osborne, Marquay Seamster (Prince), Kyle Molitor (Bootsy Collins), Noah Simpson, Dennis Dove (World Beat Collective), and Colin Jenkins (Ages and Ages). Also on the bill are Jon Kirby (Numero Group) and DJ Bobby D.

Holocene is at 1001 SE Morrison St. Tickets are \$15 advance / \$20 at the door. Tickets at [holocene.org](http://holocene.org). See [shirleynanette.com](http://shirleynanette.com) for more.



Shirley Nanette



**Portland Night Market**

Portland Night Market is a bimonthly, free event open from 4 pm to 11 pm for all ages. The huge list of participants includes nearly two hundred city vendors of local food, culture, music and retail wrapped in an adventurous Central Eastside evening.

The organizers have transformed a hundred+ year old Produce Row warehouse into an space for people of all abilities. The tented beer garden and first floor of the warehouse are ADA accessible.

At SE Morrison and Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, parking in the Industrial District is limited. Ride with a friend, bike or take the street car. The nearest A Loop streetcar stop is three blocks from the venue.

Street parking is available if you plan to drive. There are pay to park lots in the district or take TriMet Bus line 15, exit at Morrison Bridge, walk the stairs down to Water Ave. and a block over to Alder St.

Portland Night Market is a community created, volunteer organized event. Take a moment to read the FAQ page on the Night Market webpage: [pdxnm.com](http://pdxnm.com).



Quadrphotique is a show of four women photographers: Heidi Kirkpatrick, Anna Daedalus, Jayna Conkey and Jan Cook presented in conjunction with Portland Photo Month.

See Kirkpatrick's prussian blue cyantypes on vintage clothing (above); Cook's photograms of lightbulbs and chromoskedastic painting; Conkey's *Withdrawn*, embodying the responses of censorship and voyeurism; and Daedalus's *Enfolded* series folding, sculpting and re-photographing riparian hollows, wetland and woodland.

Opening night is First Friday April 5 at Roll-Up Gallery, 1715 SE Spokane St at 5 pm. See [rollupspace.com](http://rollupspace.com).

**The Dawg Days of April**

The Dawg Trio, featuring David Grisman, Danny Barnes, and Samson Grisman is releasing a debut album and bringing acoustic fireworks to our own Alberta Rose Theatre, Friday, April 19, for two hot shows. Barnes will also be doing a solo opening set.

Grisman ([davidgrisman.com](http://davidgrisman.com)) is one of the more innovative mandolin players in the world these days and his long career has given him ample opportunities to stretch the boundaries of the mandolin. He combines elements of jazz and bluegrass with other international flavors his colleagues call "Dawg" music, from the nickname Grisman received from Jerry Garcia, longtime friend and collaborator.

In this trio he is joined by another boundary-stretcher, banjo pioneer Danny Barnes and the music-sparks will surely fly.

Alberta Rose is at 3000 NE Alberta St. 503.719.6055 [albertarose-theatre.com](http://albertarose-theatre.com). There are two shows at 7 and 9:30 pm. Tickets are \$70/\$50 advance, \$60 at the door. Minors okay when accompanied by a parent or guardian.



David Grisman

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Go

## Going Out

arts &amp; performance

## Shakti and Shiva and The Vedas

Madame Palmetto Amusement Company's Mythic Clown Theatre presents The Legend of Shakti and Shiva in a different kind of theatrical experience, blending physical theater and Vedic mythology. The performance has live Kirtan too, to tell the ancient tale of the Divine Mother (Shakti) and her search for her Divine Lover (Shiva) and how she brings consciousness, life, and love to the planet.

Written and directed by Axi and Tristan Codrescu, it is epic poetry, irreverent comedy, ecstatic call and response singing and an education on the role Bhakti has on enlightenment.

The show features live Kirtan by Luz Helena and the Shakti Experience and a pre-show raga with Chitrup, Yogeshwar and Ari-Shine.

There are four performances; three in SE: Friday/Saturday April 12 and 13 at Echo Theater, 1515 SE 37th Ave., Friday April 19 at Yoga Shala, 3808-B N Williams Ave., and Saturday April 20 at Yoga Union CWC, 2305 SE 50th Ave. Curtain is at 7:30 pm. Tickets \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door; online at legendofshaktishiva.bpt.me.

## April readings at Powell's on Hawthorne

**Monday April 8** – Amy Stanton reads from **The Feminine Revolution**, cowritten with Catherine Connors. The book makes the case that feminine traits have been mischaracterized as weak, fragile, diminutive, and embittered and offers a call to redeem them as superpowers and gifts with an upbeat blend of self-help and analysis.

**Thursday April 25** – Nathaniel Brodie reads from **Steel on Stone: Living and Working in the Grand Canyon**. After years of traveling the globe, Brodie made a home in the Canyon for eight years in this transformative place.

**Monday April 29** – Carolyn Burke reads from **Foursome: Alfred Stieglitz, Georgia O'Keefe, Paul Strand, Rebecca Salsbury**, a spirited account of the relationship among these four artists whose strong personalities profoundly influenced the shape of twentieth-century art.

All readings are free and open to all at Powell's on Hawthorne, 3723 SE Hawthorne Blvd. at 7:30 pm



This is **Raga**, a piece made by **Mini Giri**. It's part of April's show at Sidestreet Arts. Giri's line-work is intricate and swirls over the textured warm wood panels she works with.

April's other featured artist is ceramist Charles Gluskoter whose pottery reaches out like they're from an ancient civilization. Both artists' works will be up until April 28. An Opening Reception is Friday, April 5, from 6-9 pm and Sidestreet's celebrated Sunday Artist Chat is April 14, beginning at noon.

The gallery is at 140 SE 28th Ave. See [SidestreetArts.com](http://SidestreetArts.com)

## It's Portland Comic Book Month!!

Books With Pictures celebrates Portland Comic Book Month with live in-store events.

**Saturday, April 13:** Michelle Nguyen and Ben Fisher sign *The Underfoot: The Mighty Deep* at 5 pm; **Wednesday, April 17** MK Reed and Jonathan Hill's Science Comics: Wild Weather Signing and fun science activities beginning at 6 pm; **Saturday, April 20:** Douglas Wolk talks about "Batgirl on Burnside: A Brief History of Superhuman Activity in Oregon" beginning at 7 pm; **Sunday, April 28** Webcomics Meetup: connect with Jackie of Underpants and Overbites, 3 pm and **Saturday May 4**, is Free Comic Book Day from 10 am-9 pm.

It's Portland Comic Book Month's tenth anniversary and big events include a happy hour, an art show and comic con at City Hall, 1221 SW 4th Ave, on First Thursday April 4 from 5 to 9 pm. See bit.ly/2uvBMDw for the details.

Short takes  
...arts news of note

**BEBOP MEETS BOSSA NOVA:** Sounds of Brazil PDX performs the Music of Durval Ferreira, Rio-born guitarist composer who wrote for, produced, and performed with Cannonball Adderley, Sarah Vaughan, Lenny Andrade, and others in the jazz and bossa nova worlds. The group includes Gabriela Gimenes, flute; singer Alexandra Santos; Kerry Politzer, piano; Ben Graves, guitar; bassist Bernardo Gomez; Steven Schob, percussion, and guest Peter Fung on Brazilian cavaquinho. Saturday, May 4, at Classic Pianos, 3003 SE Milwaukie Ave. \$15.

**MONTAVILLA JAZZ FEST'S ANNUAL SEASON REVEAL** is at Portland Garment Factory, 408 SE 79th Ave., Saturday, April 6 at 6 pm. See a sneak peak performance by the 2019 headliner. This is the 6th year of MJF. Tickets include wine and appetizers by VINO Veritas and beer by Montavilla Brew Works and Threshold Brewing. All proceeds support the year-round work of Montavilla Jazz Festival including jazz education programming in Montavilla Schools. Donate online at [montavillajazzfest.com](http://montavillajazzfest.com).

**TEARIN' UP MY HEART: A BOY BAND NIGHT CARNIVAL** is the Steep and Thorny Way to Heaven themed costume and cocktail party featuring DJs, dancing and music from Portland's performers. This year's evening of ballads and bad boys, is designed to lift spirits and glasses. From Menudo to the Osmonds, Boys II Men to the Jackson 5, you are invited to come in costume as a boy band member or a character from one of their songs. RSVP or advance ticket required at [rsvpdx.com/boybands](http://rsvpdx.com/boybands). Tickets \$18 GA, \$10 members, \$90 VIP packages for two. 21+ over only. [thesteepandthornywaytoheaven.com](http://thesteepandthornywaytoheaven.com)



**ZIMBABWEAN MARIMBA CONCERT** – Put on your dancing shoes, bring your favorite dance partner and see five bands play the high-energy music of Zimbabwe, Botswana and South Africa. Free and open to all ages, Saturday, April 6, noon-3:30 pm at Alongside Church, 2830 NE Flanders St. A raffle and silent auction benefit non-profits in Zimbabwe too.

**NEW EXPRESSIVE WORKS** Urban Choreographers' Residency Program provides incubation time and performance opportunities for local artists. Founded by Subashini Ganesan, the six-month session provides four choreographers free rehearsal space and a stipend to create a new work and showcase. There's a professionally facilitated forum for artists to share developing works and exchange feedback through their process. This residency program has served forty-six local choreographers and many collaborators. See [newexpressiveworks.org](http://newexpressiveworks.org). Spring 2019 Residents are Sarah-Luella Baker, Kayla Banks, Emily Jones and Hannah Krafcik with music by Mickey Sanchez, and LABOR by Bouton.

**Scotland's Tannahill Weavers**

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**Aladdin Theater**  
3017 SE Milwaukie Ave.

\$20 adv. – \$30 door

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**50th ANNIVERSARY TOUR**

## A Musical Journey To Eastern Europe

The members of **3 Leg Torso** met **Tabor Wind Ensemble** conductor Gene Burton while rehearsing with the North Coast Symphonic Band in 2018, and Burton's extraordinary skills on clarinet sparked a mutual desire for the two groups to collaborate.

Now they are presenting **A Musical Journey To Eastern Europe** at Warner Pacific University. For those who haven't seen 3 Leg Torso perform with a large musical group, this new collaboration will be a true delight. For those who have, this symphonic ensemble is like no other. The musicianship and energy of these large scale projects is powerful beyond words and this is an afternoon concert for all ages so bring the family.

The Wind Ensemble is a new adult group comprised of music educators, university musicians, professional musicians, and community musicians from Portland and beyond. This concert promises to be one where you just can't help but move around and dancing is encouraged.

3 Leg Torso and the Tabor Wind Ensemble, Wednesday April 14 at 2:30 pm in McGuire Auditorium at Warner Pacific University, 2219 SE 68th Ave. Tickets are \$8, \$5 for students & seniors online at [bit.ly/2FEuOmd](http://bit.ly/2FEuOmd)

## Inner City Blues Fest - Heals the Healthcare Blues



La Rhonda Steele by Logan Lynn

The 8th Inner City Blues Festival's Healing the Healthcare Blues takes place Saturday, April 27 at the North Portland Eagle's Lodge, 7611 N. Exeter Ave. (at Lombard).

It's five hours of living blues by Portland's all-stars from 5:30 pm on. The line-up features Norman Sylvester Review w/ Lenanne Miller and Renato Caranto; Steve Cheseborough; Richard Arnold Duo; the LaRhonda Steele Band; Tevis Hodge Jr. and Timothy James; Bloco Alegria; Shohorn; and The Bayou Boyz w/ Lloyd Jones. MCs are Renee Mitchell, Paul Knauls, and Greg and Cherie Johnson.

Oregon Music Hall of Fame inductee Norman Sylvester says: "I have played too many benefits for musicians who fell ill or, more tragically, played for their Celebration of Life. They didn't have preventative care because of years of not being able to afford healthcare."

It's a fundraiser for Health Care for All Oregon (HCAO), an organization working to educate and advocate for universal, publicly-funded health care. See [hcao.org](http://hcao.org). Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door and available at [bit.ly/2Yh6mOW](http://bit.ly/2Yh6mOW) or at Music Millennium, Geneva's Shear Perfection, and Peninsula Station.

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Do you feel like you're living in a fool's paradise? **PSG, the Portland Storytellers Guild**

does April up right with *Fool's Paradise: Tales from a Blissfully Skewed Point of View*.

Anne Rutherford, Trish Anderson, Susan Zwingli, and Norm Brecke explore the theme at Clinton Street Theater, 2522 SE Clinton St. Saturday, April 6, 7:30 pm telling of famous and not-so-famous iconoclasts, and relating tales that remind us of how foolish we can all be at times.

Anderson says "Like any good art, stories can distract us from our daily heap of sorrow, and sometimes even give hope and healing".

Pre-show music starts at 7 pm with two of the storytellers, Rutherford and Brecke as musical duo. Tickets are \$15 at the door, \$12 online (\$10 for PSG members and guests) at [bit.ly/2TWlenp](http://bit.ly/2TWlenp).

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Written by  
Marisela Treviño Orta

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# Don't Blink – More Change Coming

By MIDGE PIERCE

## Pro-growthers score a big one

RIP, the Residential Infill Project's elimination of Portland's single family neighborhoods, moved closer to fruition with the Planning and Sustainability Commission (PSC) vote to allow four-plexes in more than ninety per cent of residential neighborhoods – virtually all of SE. The amendments will likely reach City Council this fall.

In an expansion of RIP that surprised even seasoned staffers, the narrowly-approved PSC proposal has a significantly larger impact than one conceived four years ago.

PSC reasoned that allowing duplexes, triplexes and those four-plexes in every neighborhood enables more Portland residents to have more housing – untested theories with contradictory data about how many units will be built and whether they will be affordable.

The state legislature has a parallel proposal in HB 10 that would eliminate single family neighborhoods in population centers statewide. (See page 4.)

RIP Amendments can be found at: [bit.ly/2TsmnxN](http://bit.ly/2TsmnxN)

## Design Matters

As Portland heads spin with acronyms, city staffers walk a tightrope between delivering on directives and pleasing the public.

Acknowledging that build-

ing mass and height have huge impact, Design Overlay Zone Amendment (DOZA) planners seek input on thresholds that would trigger high level reviews by Design Commissioners vs. standard staff reviews.

Generally, the bigger the building, the tighter the scrutiny. In the draft, intensive Type III reviews are triggered by 80,000 sq foot, 65 foot high proposals – typically the equivalent of a six-story building.

That threshold should be lowered, according to Heather Flint Chatto of the newly rebranded PDX Design Initiative (formerly Division Design).

Because the newbuilds along SE's narrow corridors top out at four or five stories, SE's Main Streets would not qualify for the design scrutiny Flint Chatto says they deserve.

To take pressure off street-car-era Main Streets, Chatto says bulky development should focus on wider commercial corridors like Burnside, Sandy or 82nd.

Her ideas will be presented at an April 11 rebranding event at the Architectural Heritage Center. Register at: [bit.ly/2FxCUwU](http://bit.ly/2FxCUwU).

Comments on the DOZA discussion draft are due mid-April and will be accepted throughout the month. See [bit.ly/2WIDT8U](http://bit.ly/2WIDT8U)

## URMS Still at Risk

While timelines for placarding earthquake hazards of unreinforced masonry (URM) buildings are delayed until November 2020, the fate of some older structures may be sealed.

Since the URM debacle,

frequent blogger M Hansen started monitoring what she terms a sell-off of vintage buildings. She cites a listing for SE's iconic Imago Theater. The theater is in an "Opportunity Zone" with new construction incentives that put older buildings at risk of demolition, she says.

Hansen points to twenty-nine units at 1634 Hawthorne and the SEUI building at SE Foster and Holgate. She derides the Portland Housing Bureau for tripling spending on new construction subsidies while failing to keep people housed in existing affordable units.

"Where is the political will to mitigate displacement instead of incentivizing it," she asks.

## History Plays Catch-up

In a time of unprecedented growth, Restore Oregon says the state's protection of historic buildings and districts is considered the worst in the nation.

Proposed Historic Resource Code (HRC) amendments would give Portlanders more control over what should be protected from demolition and include procedures for updating the city's thirty-five year-old Historic Resource Inventory (HRI).

On the state level, Senate Bill 929 proposes a twenty-five per cent rebate on historic building rehabilitation costs, potentially resulting in rehab of four times more buildings, creating nearly 1400 jobs annually, according to Restore.

A related bill, SB 927, would replace owner consent laws for historic designations with community consent.

# Belmont 'Christmas House' debuts on April house tour

The rehabilitation of a once beloved, formerly abandoned three-story, turn of last Century mansion is among three homes in SE featured on the Architectural Heritage Center's April 13 Old House Tour.

Elaborate renovations of the Jacob H. Cook house on Belmont St. are bringing the boarded up classic back from the brink. Sitting empty for years, it was heavily damaged by rodents and squatters with a conscience, according to owner Lyrin Murphy, who says they left century-old woodworking largely intact.

Murphy, a realtor with the passion and energy to save old homes, bought the house she now calls Walter (possibly for a rumored connection to Walt Disney) at auction, narrowly outbidding investors who likely would have torn down the Colonial revival style manse.

For Murphy and investor Steve Day it's been a rewarding, if daunting, experience.

The biggest challenge was rebuilding railing on three balconies. After sorting through nearly three hundred balusters, those deemed unusable were remilled by Creative Woodworking based on complex

math calculations by Richard DeWolf at Arciform.

The curved corners were then carved out of Mahogany wheels and each spindle was hand-nailed into place.

"There's a reason they don't build like this anymore," laughs Murphy who went from panic to thinking how incredible it looks. "What a long road it was. It's remarkable how the community rallied behind this house to help save it."

The future use of a landmark locals used to call the Christmas House for its grand holiday light displays is dependent on city permits. Murphy envisions a place for a traditional bed 'n breakfast, community events and weddings once the gardens are planted.

Other houses on the tour include a 1923 bungalow in Ladd's Addition, the first time in years a home in the historic district will be featured.

Also open in SE is a Colonial Heights bungalow that retains its historic charm on the outside and is open, light and modernized on the inside.

For information on all six houses: see [visitaahc.org/events/oldhouserverival](http://visitaahc.org/events/oldhouserverival).



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SE Updates

from cover

more with less. By contrast, shiny new Franklin is experiencing burgeoning enrollment that may shield it from cutbacks.

Meanwhile students themselves have shown exceptional leadership skills as they take on climate, security and human rights issues that stymie their elders.

Police Shortage Worsens

Despite entry level salary boosts, historically high numbers of Portland police recruits leave the force before their two-year training and probation period ends. In addition, another fifty more officers are due to retire this summer.

As a result, Portland’s police shortage grows worse daily even though 911 calls have increased by 25% in five years.

Negativity about police has morale at an all-time low. “A little bit of appreciation can go a long way,” said an officer.

By David Krogh

Rent Control Adopted

National media has been touting Oregon as the first state in the nation to adopt statewide rent control. In actuality, what Governor Brown signed into action February 28 is not rent control per se. Rather it is a means to limit rent gouging, a serious problem, especially in the Portland area.

Senate Bill 608 sailed through the Democrat-controlled Oregon Legislature and was the first bill signed into law during the 2019 legislative session. It caps how much landlords can raise rents, and, makes it harder for them to evict tenants without cause. It does not, however, establish base rents or provide specific caps other than for rent increases.

Under the measure, landlords statewide can now raise rents no more than seven percent per year, plus the annual change in the consumer price index. The sum of these is roughly ten per cent per year.

The bill includes an exemption for rental properties less than fifteen years old. It limits a landlord’s ability to evict tenants without a reason after they have lived at a property for a year.

Landlords can still evict tenants for cause if they violate the terms of their lease. Landlords may also evict renters without cause at the end of their first year of tenancy with ninety days notice.

The only problem appears to be in enforcement. No state agency is responsible for this, so tenants would need to take a noncompliant landlord to court for restitution.

According to Speaker Kotek’s office, the only role for a state agency in the law is for the Department of Administrative Services, which is required to post the annual allowable rent increase for landlords.

The Oregon Law Center

has resources available about how the law works at this link: [bit.ly/2HBXMVY](http://bit.ly/2HBXMVY).

The City of Portland additionally has tenant protections in place which, if violated, require the landlord to pay the tenant for relocation. Enforcement for that is also via court process. The City Housing Bureau has an information page at [portlandoregon.gov/phb/74544](http://portlandoregon.gov/phb/74544).

An article posted in *The Oregonian* March 18 indicates Portland’s tenant protection program may be in jeopardy because of a Multnomah County Circuit Court determination that the City is not lawfully able to provide rent control provisions. ([bit.ly/2FmUxOC](http://bit.ly/2FmUxOC)).

Finally, a non-profit tenant advocacy group, the Community Alliance of Tenants is available to help educate and advise tenants as to their rights and options. Their website link is: [oregoncat.org](http://oregoncat.org). The phone is 503.288.0130.

PBOT Intersection Modifications Causing Concerns

PBOT is in the process of providing modifications to SE Lincoln and Harrison Streets from SE 60th west into Ladd’s Addition as part of their change of designation to a Neighborhood Greenway. The project intent is to greatly limit vehicle use while adding bicycle and pedestrian improvements.

One of the locations is providing concerns for several drivers and neighbors.

The signalized intersection at SE 50th and Lincoln used to provide left, right and through movements. PBOT has, however, placed barriers at the intersection so that no left or through movements are now permitted.

Through movements on Lincoln are only permitted by pedestrians and bicycles. Vehicles now must cut through narrow neighborhood streets in order to access both sides of Lincoln and cannot turn left either onto Lincoln or 50th.

*The Southeast Examiner* contacted PBOT’s project manager Sheila Parrott for an explanation and was told the status of Lincoln has changed and the project is following the allowed standards of the Neighborhood Greenway designation.

*Southeast Examiner* staff scoped the intersection on different days and observed several potential problems.

Signage announcing the movement changes was lacking or insufficient. Large bollards placed in the intersection make it near impossible for large vehicles to turn safely from Lincoln onto 50th.

On one occasion, a Trimet LIFT vehicle was seen doing a U-turn in Lincoln St. as the driver noticed left turns onto SE 50th were no longer permitted.

On another occasion several full-sized school buses diverted down narrow neighborhood streets because they, too, could no longer utilize the 50th and Lincoln intersection.

There was also an increase in traffic on SE Harrison carrying diversions from 50th.

PBOT’s official position is that increased bicycle improvements and traffic calming features that reduce vehicle

speeds both help to reduce traffic congestion.

Individuals in the area were asked their opinions of the improvements and responses included more cons than pros.

Neighbor David Clark was opposed: “Portland’s solution to traffic congestion is to destroy the ability of drivers to get around.”

Foster Brookes thought the improvements “ruined what used to be a functional and safe signalized intersection.”

Jack Burns responded “It’s great for bikers.”

PBOT project information indicates traffic diversions caused by the modifications will be examined six months after completion to determine if mitigation is required.

*If you have concerns, contact the project manager at [Sheila.parrott@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:Sheila.parrott@portlandoregon.gov). To report a traffic safety or maintenance concerns, see [bit.ly/2HMo7zK](http://bit.ly/2HMo7zK) or phone 503.823.SAFE.*



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Housing Bills

from page 4

proximities to priority transit corridors would be fifty and twenty-five units per acre respectively.

This bill is being reviewed by the Senate Committee on Housing and scheduled for a public hearing April 1.

Testimony thus far has been mixed, but with concerns over a lack of citizen involvement and increased density does not consider light rail station and transit access

locations. Information about the SB10 review process is at: [bit.ly/2HAa2WM](http://bit.ly/2HAa2WM).

The mandated planning processes for all these bills and construction activities from new housing requirements will take years to accomplish. None of these will provide an immediate resolution to Oregon’s housing crisis but are intended as goals to be attained.

*To search for State bills and to track their progress and to provide testimony, go to: [bit.ly/1E68b0a](http://bit.ly/1E68b0a).*



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**Crystal Sound Bath ~ April 20 • 7-8:30pm**

**Sonic Journey ~ April 26 • 8-9:30pm**

**Rebirthing ~ April 27 • 7:30-9:30pm**

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# Wellness Word

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

## When should a MRIs be avoided?

Many patients ask their doctors to use magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to diagnose their chronic low back pain. They want to use the most up-to-date technology to determine the cause of their pain and to make sure it is nothing serious.

But is MRI helpful? Does it provide benefit or simply expose the patient to risks?

Research studies confirm that MRIs are not necessary for most patients with low back pain and have generally been overused. Recently, an international medical team conducted a scientific review of research investigating MRIs and low back degeneration.

Based on their assessment, the team reached the following conclusion: There is insufficient evidence to support the routine use of MRI in patients with chronic low back pain.

A concern for all low back pain patients should be false-positive findings. These are findings of clinically-irrelevant abnormalities on an MRI that lead to unnecessary treatment.

A recent study funded by the National Institute on Aging and National Institutes of Health examined the relationship between adults with and without chronic low back pain and degenerative disc and osteoarthritic disease. Researchers from the University of Delaware and University of Pittsburgh conducted this study, and over three hundred adults participated.

This high quality study confirmed that degenerative disc and osteoarthritic disease is widespread in older adults, regardless of clinical status, with greater than ninety per cent of patients demonstrating some level of degeneration. It also demonstrated that the severity of disc and joint disease shown on MRI is not associated with pain severity in patients with chronic low back pain.

This study is supported by previous findings showing that disc degeneration is frequent among subjects without symptoms and is not clinically relevant. Degeneration of spinal discs is a progressive and normal age-related circumstance in adults, and has only a weak relationship to pain and disability. Degeneration and herniation are biological realities, but pain and disability do not necessarily occur. Many imaging findings that traditionally were presumed to be pathologic, are common in asymptomatic populations.

Researchers have found that MRI abnormalities are not major predictors of outcomes in patients with low back pain. In fact, the joint guidelines of the American College of Physicians and the American Pain Society explicitly recommend not using routine imaging in patients with non-specific low back pain. Research also suggests that patients with whiplash injuries, spinal stenosis and meniscal tears might want to avoid the routine use of MRIs.

The advice for patients is to avoid MRIs unless there is a compelling reason for their use. Talk openly with your doctor about your specific condition and possible alternative diagnostic methods. A complete medical history and physical examination can usually identify any dangerous conditions that may be associated with back pain, and simple blood tests are usually more accurate at locating early signs of serious medical issues.

*Dr. Hari Dass Khalsa is a chiropractor specializing in the non-surgical treatment of spinal conditions. Call 238.1032 for more information.*

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# Rs Representatively Speaking

By STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
ROB NOSSE

Recently, articles in *The Southeast Examiner* and several other local news outlets have highlighted how our state’s environmental reputation is undermined by lack of action regarding the regulation of pollution. I could not agree more. This is especially true for our long-standing problem with diesel emissions.

Roughly eighty per cent of freight in this country is moved by diesel engines, which also power most non-road construction and farm equipment. These engines are reliable, durable, powerful, and fuel efficient.

Unfortunately, they are heavy polluters. Diesel emissions are some of the

most toxic pollution created by any engines. Particulates from diesel cause damage to human health, especially among children, the elderly, and those with respiratory ailments. They harm crops too by clogging the stomata on their leaves through which they breathe.

According to a 2015 study by the Center for Disease Control, Oregon not only leads the country in rates of adult asthma, but also has the country’s highest asthma-related mortality rate. Among US cities, Portland ranks second for adult asthma rates, according to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America. The Oregon Environmental Council reports that ninety per cent of Oregonians now reside in areas where diesel particulate levels are above the state’s safety

benchmark.

Due to the Willamette Valley’s topography and weather patterns, temperature inversions trap diesel fumes and lead to significant spikes in pollution levels, exacerbating our already poor air quality.

In the last two decades, California and Washington have adopted restrictions on diesel pollution. As a result, trucking firms and other industries in those states sold off their polluting assets in Oregon. As I mentioned earlier, these engines are durable and last a long time. We have become a dumping ground for the West Coast’s unwanted dirty diesel engines, making our problem worse.

Together with Speaker Tina Kotek and Representative Karen Power, I introduced HB 2007 to address this problem. The bill starts cleaning up Oregon’s truck fleets as well as providing grants for operators to upgrade their technology and install emissions

reducing equipment. Under the bill, DEQ will set standards that medium and heavy-duty trucks must meet by 2029 for reducing emissions and transitioning to clean diesel engines.

HB 2007 will create the Clean Diesel Engine Fund to distribute grants to equipment owners who qualify. These funds will be prioritized for those who own small fleets, who belong to sensitive communities, or are in parts of the state with elevated levels of particulate matter. A sizable portion of the funds will come from Oregon’s \$72.9 million allotment from the Volkswagen settlement, money the state is required to use specifically to combat diesel emissions.

To fund the program beyond what the VW settlement covers, the bill creates a task force to develop funding future streams such as taxes, fees, contract requirements, and other revenue generating tools that

have proven successful in other states.

Idling is also a problem. When large vehicles idle their engines, they can quickly fill a street with diesel fumes. Oregon currently has a preemption on local jurisdictions from creating no-idling zones. HB 2007 removes that preemption so that local governments can protect vulnerable populations by creating no-idling zones around schools, nursing homes, and hospitals.

Regulation of diesel pollution is long overdue. HB 2007 is a reasonable and necessary step, that we believe can pass, to clean up our air and show that our state is serious about tackling pollution.

It’s time for Oregon to be an environmental leader once again on this bill and on HB 2020 Clean Energy Clean Jobs. I look forward to both bills passing in the Oregon House and Senate before spring is over.

## Tax Act Costly in the Long Run

from cover

change in earnings.

Another school teacher, whose partner also teaches said his taxes went up \$2500 when generally they receive a \$400 or \$500 refund.

Wyden summarized that many people rely upon their tax return as a kind of enforced savings, but some middle income wage earners will not be seeing that this year.

The tax consultant said that some filers have noticed a tax increase, while others did

not. It was too early in the tax season to tell. She said people will benefit a little but the TCJA definitely gives a “boatload” to the already wealthy. Her fears are that the country will end up paying the price in the long run.

Both Wyden and Blumenauer are opposed to this new Act. The idea of supply-side or trickle-down economics that began in the 1980s says what’s good for the wealthy will trickle down to everyone in the society, but it has not shown to be true.

Senator Wyden had been

at the table with Big Pharma in Washington D.C. for five days before this town meeting. “They expect to receive millions in tax cut with no plans to lower the rates on the pharmaceuticals,” he said. Congressman Blumenauer

For these two politicians, whose intention is to do what is best for the long term economic growth of the country and the people, tax laws like this one are out dated. The previous century’s motto that “greed is good,” does not pencil out in this day and age. *NT*



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Community Events Bulletin

Old House Revival Tour  
April 13, 10 am – 4 pm  
visitahc.org

After 20 years, the AHC’s Old House Revival Tour continues to provide resources and inspiration for preserving original building materials, restoring spaces lost to previous remodels, and creating new spaces that are sensitive to the architecture of the home. The residences on this self-guided tour represent many of the most common eras and architectural styles in the Portland area. Buy tickets online today!

House of Dreams Cat Shelter Annual Plant and Vegan Bake Sale  
April 14, 10-4 @ 7634 SE Morrison St.  
Kittydreams.org

You’ll find Indoor/outdoor plants, pots, garden art, terrariums and vegan baked goodies! Great selection and low prices. All proceeds benefit this grassroots, no-kill, free roam, all-volunteer cat shelter and sanctuary in NE Portland. 503-262-0763, hodplantsale@gmail.com

Hortladia  
April 20 & 21  
hardyplantsociety.org/hortlandia

The Hardy Plant Society of Oregon’s Plant & Garden Art Sale is one of the largest of its kind in the Pacific Northwest. Vendors from far and wide – from nearly the Canadian border to the California border – come to Portland to offer the latest plant introductions as well as the time-tested (and hardiness-tested!) plants. Complementing the plant vendors are specialty garden art vendors bringing one-of-a-kind pieces made from metal, wood, glass, ceramic, fabric, and stone. Admission is Free!



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

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