



## LIFE is golden

**50 YEARS** Hollywood Senior Center reaches a milestone and celebrates with a new name and summer block party for community members of all ages. **PAGE 6**

**BOOK BUZZ**  
As the winner of the 2023 Richard M. Robinson Award, Jason Lee Elementary School gets a library makeover and over 6,000 new books. **PAGE 10**



**MISSISSIPPI MATTERS** Find lots to see and do on this lively, quirky, fun street. **PAGE 12**



**MORE PLACES TO PLAY** Neighbors in Rose City Park collaborate to bring project to fruition. **PAGE 11**



**LOW-COST CAT CARE**  
Spay & Save Program helps pet owners avoid unwanted kitty litters. **PAGE 19**



**NATURAL PROGRESSION** Popular furniture store to pack it up after nearly 40 years. **PAGE 8**

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**★ STAR COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS**



**BY JANET GOETZE**

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**MISSISSIPPI STREET FAIR PROMISES FULL DAY OF FUN**

The Mississippi Street Fair, one of the city's largest, will feature music, food, vendors and kids' activities from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, July 15, between North Fremont and Skidmore streets.

The music will be on three main stages. Grandfathers Rib-Off Competition will be part of the fun. Kids' activities will be near Mississippi Pizza and Pub, 3552 N. Mississippi Ave. And, of course, the avenue's many shops and restaurants will be open.

Some streets in the area will be closed to traffic from 5 a.m. to midnight on July 15. These include North Mississippi Avenue between Cook and Skidmore Streets. Closures also affect Beech, Failing, Shaver and Mason streets between Michigan and Albina avenues.

Bus, biking and walking are encouraged for arriving at the street fair, but paid parking in the area will be available. One site is at the Boise-Eliot School, with entry on North

Kerby Avenue and Fremont Street. Another is Self Enhancement Inc., or SEI, 3920 N. Kerby Ave. Enter the parking area on Kerby Avenue. Proceeds from parking fees will benefit the school and SEI center.

**JAZZ FESTIVAL SET FOR CATHEDRAL PARK**

The 43rd annual Cathedral Park Jazz Festival will feature national and international musicians from July 14-16 in the park under the St. Johns Bridge at North Pittsburgh Avenue and Edison Street.

Mary Flower, singer, songwriter and much-honored guitarist, will start off the music at 4:30 p.m. Friday, July 14. Curtis Salgado, an award-winning instrumentalist and songwriter, will end the evening with a performance from 9-10 p.m.

The performances start at 1 p.m. Saturday, July 15, with the final set from 8:30-9:45 p.m. The Sunday, July 16, music will start at 1 p.m. and wind up from 7-8:15 p.m.

The musicians throughout the weekend include the Dmitri Matheny group, "West Coast Cool," the Chuchito Valdes Trio, 3 Leg Torso, Jesse Marquez, the Brian Charette Organ Trio and Yak Attack. The music schedule is at jazzoregon.org/2023-festival.

The musical styles are wide-ranging with soul, funk, Cuban, Brazilian and just plain jazz.

The festival organizers at the Jazz Society of Oregon recommend bringing a blanket or low chair and sunscreen. Don't bring umbrellas or tents because they may block views. A beer and wine garden is available for those 21 or older, but alcohol isn't permitted outside the garden. Food carts and booths also will be available. Dogs are discouraged unless they are service animals.

The event is free but donation opportunities will be available. Purchase of



Get your groove on at the 43rd annual Cathedral Park Jazz Festival July 14-16. (Cathedral Park Jazz Festival)

beer and wine also provides support. Parking is available on the street but fills up fast. Public transit is available near the park.

**STREET ART PLANNED FOR FREMONT STREET**

Art will appear along Northeast Fremont Street on the pedestrian bump-outs at the Northeast 44th and 46th avenues intersections, part of a neighborhood beautification project proposed to the Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association.

Preparation of the sites is expected to take place July 7 with the painting of images to start about 9 a.m. Saturday, July 8, said John Sandie, the project coordinator and a member of the neighborhood board. The Beaumont Business Association also is supporting the project.

The south side of the 44th Avenue intersection will feature a dragon boat image in honor of Gayle Phillips, a dragon boat team member who was fatally struck by a car at the intersection in December 2021. Her husband, Dennis Phillips, has commissioned a professional artist to work on the image, Sandie said.

Beaumont Middle School students submitted Oregon coast themes, and ideas have come from other area residents, he said. If the volunteer-led project is successful, Sandie said, the group will add art to the bump-out at 47th Avenue later this year.

Orange cones will be placed around the work area to alert drivers to the activity within pedestrian bump-outs. The work will be delayed to the next weekend if weather stalls the earlier date, Sandie said.

**TOUR FOUR GARDENS, BENEFIT MIDDLE SCHOOL**

A tour of four gardens, with art on display and for sale, has been arranged

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**Places to pick up the Hollywood Star**

**Libraries:** Albina, Gregory Heights, Hollywood, Kenton, and North

**Grocery stores:** New Seasons on Interstate, Williams and Broadway/33rd

Fairleys Pharmacy and 42nd Street Station

**To submit story ideas, letters to the editor or press releases, please email**  
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by the Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association to benefit Beaumont Middle School. The event is planned from 1-5 p.m. Saturday, July 29. Information and tickets are at [www.bwnapdx.org/event-details/art-garden-tour-2023](http://www.bwnapdx.org/event-details/art-garden-tour-2023).

The gardens vary from an oasis with tropical and subtropical plants, a home with a focus on succulents, a patio space with native plantings and a sunny, art-filled garden that is home to the artist, according to a news release.

Location information will be provided

**- CONTINUED ON PAGE 3**

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after ticket purchase. Children under 12 will be admitted free. Not all gardens are wheelchair accessible.

**LIBRARY UPDATE SET FOR GREGORY HEIGHTS**

The Gregory Heights Library, 7921 N.E. Sandy Blvd., will close July 20 for "refresh" projects and reopen in winter 2023, according to the Multnomah County Library.

Gregory Heights is one of 10 branch libraries to have small improvements made through a library building bond approved by voters in 2020. The Albina and North Portland branch libraries also are closed until fall 2024 for renovation and expansion paid for by the same bond.

Branches near Gregory Heights include the Hollywood Library, 4040 N.E. Tillamook St., and the Belmont Library, 1038 S.E. Caesar Chavez Blvd.

The work at Gregory Heights will include fresh paint, new carpeting, new seating, updated technology plus faster internet and improved shelf height for better sightlines. Improvements also will include automated material handling to increase efficiency of checking in and sorting books. Roof maintenance and exterior paint are planned but aren't bond funded.

Closed branches can't accept returned materials, which should go to an open branch, according to a news release. Books returned by mail go to the Isom Operations Center, 205 N.E. Russell St.

Some books and media will go to storage and be unavailable during building closures. If an item isn't available to be checked out, look at the library's collection of e-books, audiobooks and streaming media, which are free with a library card. For help finding materials, call 503-988-5123.



Portland Public Schools is providing free lunch and play at city parks on weekdays through Aug. 18. (City of Portland)

**FREE LUNCHES SERVED WITH PARK PLAY DAYS**

The Bureau of Parks and Recreation offers free lunch and play days from Monday through Friday until Aug. 18. Meals are provided by Portland Public Schools in line with the federal lunch program rules.

The hours vary slightly. The North and Northeast parks with lunches from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. include Alberta Park, Northeast 19th Avenue and Jarrett Street; Columbia Park, North Woolsey Avenue and Winchell Street; Cully Park, 5810 N.E. 72nd Ave., and Irving Park, 875 N.E. Fremont St.

The parks serving lunches from noon to 1:30 p.m. include Kenton Park, North Delaware Avenue and Kilpatrick Street; K'hunamokwst Park, 5200 N.E. Alberta St.; McCoy Park, North Newman Avenue and Newark Street; Montavilla Park, Northeast 82nd Avenue and Glisan Street; Peninsula Park, 700 N. Rosa Parks Way, and St. Johns Park, 8427 N. Central St.

Portland Opera will visit K'hunamokwst Park during the free lunch period on July 28. Friends of Baseball will visit Kenton Park on July 11. Exploratory nature walks will be conducted at Peninsula Park on July 6;

Kenton Park on July 20 and K'hunamokwst Park on July 27.

**REAL ESTATE STAFF HELPS BUILD BEDS**

Real estate brokers, managers and staff have joined Windermere's community service day to undertake projects bringing positive impacts in neighborhoods where they live and work.

Windermere Realty Trust brokers from Northeast Portland in June helped Portland SHED — Sleep in Heavenly Peace — build, assemble and deliver bunk beds to children and families in need. The SHED is at 10609 N.E. Simpson St.

Windermere Real Estate has more than 300 offices in 10 states. The community service day was established in 1984 as a hands-on volunteer project.



Windermere Realty Trust staff helped build beds for children and families in need. (Windermere Realty Trust)

**ONPOINT CREDIT UNION AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS**

A Benson High School senior has received a college scholarship worth \$10,000 and a two other Portland students have received \$5,000 scholarships each for their scholarship, community service and athletic achievement.

Kavon Bradford, the Benson graduate, has received a top scholarship from OnPoint Community Credit Union, awarded to students participating in activities under the Oregon School Activities Association, according to an OnPoint news release.

Lane Shaffer of McDaniel High School and Charles Black of Central Catholic High School also received scholarships. Three other students in other parts of the state also received OnPoint scholarships this year.

Bradford earned a 3.83 grade point average while taking Advanced Placement courses.

He plans to study pre-law as an undergrad and ultimately become an attorney.

He was captain of his varsity basketball team and served as a role model in a program for Black middle school students. During the COVID pandemic, he helped raise \$15,000 for Raphael House and Rose Haven, nonprofits that support survivors of domestic violence

Shaffer, who earned a 4.0 grade point average while taking college-level classes, was co-chair of the Transportation, Equity and Environmental Advocacy Committee of the Multnomah Youth Commission. He participated in football, cross country, wrestling and the school newspaper. He also was president of the school's Youth Action Council. His college goal is to major in public health and public policy.

Black earned a 4.0 grade point average and is a National Merit Scholarship finalist. He was student body vice president, participated in campus ministry and led Central's CommuniCare, a social justice and community service group. He played in five sports and was co-captain of his varsity cross-country and track teams and junior varsity basketball team. He plans to become a physician.



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★ STAR DEVELOPMENT NEWS



BY PHILL COLOMBO

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COUNTY POPULATION DOWN 2.6% OVER TWO YEARS

In an 11-page analysis of Multnomah County's decreasing population from 2020 to 2022, Colliers, the region's largest full-service commercial real estate firm, characterized the county's 2.6% population loss as a "concerning snapshot." The figure, compiled by the U.S. Census Bureau, compared unfavorably with losses of just

0.2% in both Washington and Clackamas counties and a population jump of 2.3% in Clark County, Washington.

The analysis noted that almost two dozen major and local companies have relocated from Portland's downtown, including four from the eastside, leaving over 1 million square feet of commercial space vacant. The out-migration of individuals and firms resulted in a Multnomah County net loss of \$1.08 billion in adjusted gross income, according to the Internal Revenue Service. The Colliers report, though, said that a "muted bright spot" in this loss for the state's most populous county was that 73% of that loss remained in Oregon.

While the Colliers' analysis saw the near-term outlook as "grim" and "bleak," it predicted long-term optimism, citing the county's underlying demographic base as a primary reason. Noting a highly educated workforce and the fact that 25 colleges and universities call Portland home, the optimistic prediction cited Oregon Health & Science University as a top biomedical research institution with 4,000 students and 20,000 employees as an example. Credit also was given to Intel and Nike for their attraction of highly skilled and technically trained employees.

Colliers recommends a collaborative effort of the region's many stakeholders



A middle court featuring public amenities will separate the two four-story buildings of Glisan Landing in Montavilla. The \$56.5 million development will provide 137 affordable housing units for families and formerly homeless, low-income individuals and is scheduled to open in the summer of 2024. (Holst Architecture)

begin working on returning Portland and Multnomah County to its former reputation as "a vibrant city where people and businesses want to live and work." More at: www.colliers.com/en/research/portland/portland-metro-demographics.

CULLY IMPROVEMENTS TO BEGIN IN 2024

Three Portland departments (Transportation, Environmental Services

and Water) have merged separate efforts to improve Cully's public works into a single collaboration. Formerly known as the Cully Neighborhood Street Improvement Project and 70s Greenway: Cully Connector (Northeast 72nd Avenue) Project, the combined efforts will now be known as Cully Public Works Improvement Project. The merger is expected to deliver the project more efficiently and better mitigate neighborhood

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



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impacts by combining procurement and work schedules. The merger also provides one public point of contact with a single project manager, David Backes, working with a lone prime contractor.

The project right-of-way process is underway, scheduled to wrap up in early fall of this year, and bidding is targeted for early 2024 with construction likely to begin next spring or summer. Find out more at [www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/76896](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/76896).

**ARTISTS CHOSEN FOR LIBRARY PROJECTS**

Multnomah County's Library and the Regional Arts & Culture Council are teaming up to assign specific artists to execute the 2020 voter-approved Library Building bond to add artwork to the expansion and/or renovation of nine library buildings. Smaller upgrades also are planned for 11 libraries.

"At the center of these new libraries is the belief that beauty and transformative spaces should be accessible for everyone," said Vailey Oehlke, libraries director. "Working with the Regional Arts & Culture Council offers an opportunity to bring the library, community and artists together in a vibrant way to ensure these new library spaces are not just functional for everyone, but also beautiful and inspiring."

The artwork is developed in coordination with the Regional Arts & Culture Council through a program that allots 2% of the construction budget toward the investment in public art. Artists are awarded projects as part of a robust public process, which includes selection panels led by local residents, business owners, artists, library staff and project partners. More information is at [multcolib.org/refresh-projects](http://multcolib.org/refresh-projects).

**MONTAVILLA AFFORDABLE HOUSING WORK UNDERWAY**

Construction of 137 units of affordable housing at 7450 N.E. Glisan St. in Montavilla began with a mid-June event involving Related Northwest, Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization and Catholic Charities of Oregon and major funders from Metro, Portland's Housing Bureau and Oregon Housing & Community Services.



A Seattle-based trust, owner of this Lloyd District fire-damaged duplex built in 1911, is seeking permission to deconstruct the building, claiming it is a dangerous structure. (Portland Bureau of Environmental Services)

The project, Glisan Landing, consists of two separate entities: Aldea, a four-story building co-owned by Related Northwest and IRCO with 96 family housing units and Beacon, a four-story structure co-developed by Related Northwest and Catholic Charities and owned by Catholic Charities with 41 units of permanent, supportive housing for formerly homeless, low-income individuals.

The developments are the sixth and seventh of 19 projects funded by the Metro Housing Bond and keep the regional government on track to add a total of 1,540 new affordable homes to Portland. Glisan Landing is the largest of five properties secured by the bond. The \$56.5 million development is expected to open in summer 2024. More information is at <https://www.catholiccharitiesoregon.org/services/healthy-housing/healthy-housing-initiative/hhi-projects/74th-glisan/>.

**PERMITS ISSUED**

**In Beaumont-Wilshire at 4451 N.E. 42nd Ave.,** Society 42 LLC has permission to construct a three-story, congregate living facility with a dozen sleeping units on the first level, 16 sleeping units each on second and third floors. The facility will be built with a patio and a new retaining wall along west and south property lines. There

will be no on-site parking.

**In Concordia at 5090 N.E. 27th Ave.,** Todd Mylet secured a permit to construct a two-story, single-family residence with an attached accessory dwelling unit and no garage on vacant property adjacent to his residence.

**In Cully at 5327 N.E. Columbia Blvd.,** PLM Holdings LLC of Vancouver, Washington, has been issued permits to deconstruct north and south duplexes built in 1942.

**APPLICATIONS FILED**

**In Beaumont-Willshire at 3538 N.E. 44th Ave.,** DBS Group LLC of Tualatin wants to deconstruct a 704-square-foot, single-family residence built in 1925 along with a detached garage and replace the older buildings with nine single-family homes without garages on a large lot.

**In Irvington at 2207 N.E. Ninth Ave.,** Nicholas Chope and Chavienne Gruber Living Trust want to build a single-story accessory dwelling unit with a loft and no garage.

**In Kenton at 1536 N. Schofield St.,** Provision Investments Inc., of Vancouver, Washington, has applied to construct a two-story, three-unit townhouse without any garages on vacant property.

**In Kerns at 732 N.E. 20th Ave.,** JA1 LLC of Southwest Portland filed to deconstruct a detached garage built in 1924 and replace it with a new, detached accessory dwelling unit.

**Laurelhurst at 3324 N.E. Holladay St.,** Al Kaydalin Construction Inc., of Damascus, is seeking permission to construct a 2,488-square-foot, three-story, single-family residence with a garage and an attached accessory dwelling unit.

**In Lloyd at 617-619 N.E. Halsey St.,** the Rose Brogna Trust of Seattle is seeking a permit to deconstruct a 1,980-square-foot, fire-damaged duplex built in 1911 characterized as a dangerous building.

**In Vernon at 4923 N.E. 20th Ave.,** Everett Custom Homes of Northwest Portland has filed to deconstruct an 1,146-square-foot, single-family home built in 1908. The appeal period closes at 4:30 p.m. July 10.

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★ STAR FEATURE

# Aging gracefully

*Hollywood Senior Center marks 50 years with community block party, new name*

By Janet Goetze

janetgoetze@star-news.info

After 50 years, of course the Hollywood Senior Center is having a birthday party. And it is celebrating with its “umbrella name,” the Center for Positive Aging, said Amber Kerns-Johnson, the director since 2009.

The party will fill a block on Northeast 40th Avenue, between Sandy Boulevard and Hancock Street, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, July 22. Live music, food carts and kids’ activities are part of the fun. Art displays, a BIPOC vendor market and a health and wellness fair are planned, too.

The center opened in 1973 when the local Jaycees, a service organization, received a grant to open a drop-in space for older adults — those at least age 55. It gradually added activities and services as it became an independent, nonprofit organization supported by federal and state funds, grants, fundraising and individual donations.

In 2021, as Gloria Lee, executive director of The Giving Tree, looked toward retirement, the board and advisory council realized the center could take on the services and provide direct assistance to low-income older adults

across Multnomah County. Those services include art, education and recreation for residents of low-income housing. The merger revived the idea of a name change, Kerns-Johnson said.

“There had been talk about a name change for decades, before I came,” she said. Some people, although in the age group, didn’t identify with the term “senior,” she explained. Also, the “Hollywood” in the name caused some to assume the center was only for people in the local neighborhood or Northeast Portland.

“Our services reach far beyond the walls of this building,” Kerns-Johnson said at her desk in the center at 1820 N.E. 40th Ave. Also, the services of The Giving Tree extend to people younger than 50 in low-income housing, she noted.

The discussions began to center around ideas of “healthy” and “positive” and growing into aging, not as a loss to the community, but as a strength and asset, Kerns-Johnson said. The center leadership groups worked with a consultant, she said, before adopting the new name — Center for Positive Aging. Its abbreviation is CfPA.

However, people still refer to the building as the Hollywood Senior Center or just “the center,” she said.



A dance jam is a fun way to get exercise and listen to music with a beat, one of several activities scheduled by the Community for Positive Aging. The new name shows its expansion from the Hollywood Senior Center. The 50th anniversary of the center’s founding will be celebrated at a summer block party July 22. (CfPA)

The early center’s mission was to provide social and recreational opportunities. Over the years, educational programs and social services have been added.

Today, CfPA offers information and assistance on a variety of resources such as housing, transportation and caregiver needs. Once a week, Legal Aid Services has volunteer lawyers make appointments with those needing legal help. Walkers, canes and wheelchairs are among the durable medical equipment often available for free.

The activities calendar includes exercise, dance, tai chi and walking groups. A bridge group, ukulele players, writers and a film discussion group are scheduled as well as a

free monthly movie.

Since 2009, the center has been a cooling center during extreme summer heat and a distributor of fans and other resources for older adults. In 2011, the center partnered with the Hollywood Farmers Market for the Hollywood Neighborhood Gleaners to provide produce for low-income adults.

Since 2012, the center has been the lead agency in the North/Northeast Consortium District Center, partnering with the Urban League of Portland and the Native American Youth and Family Center to coordinate care, information, programs and activities for older

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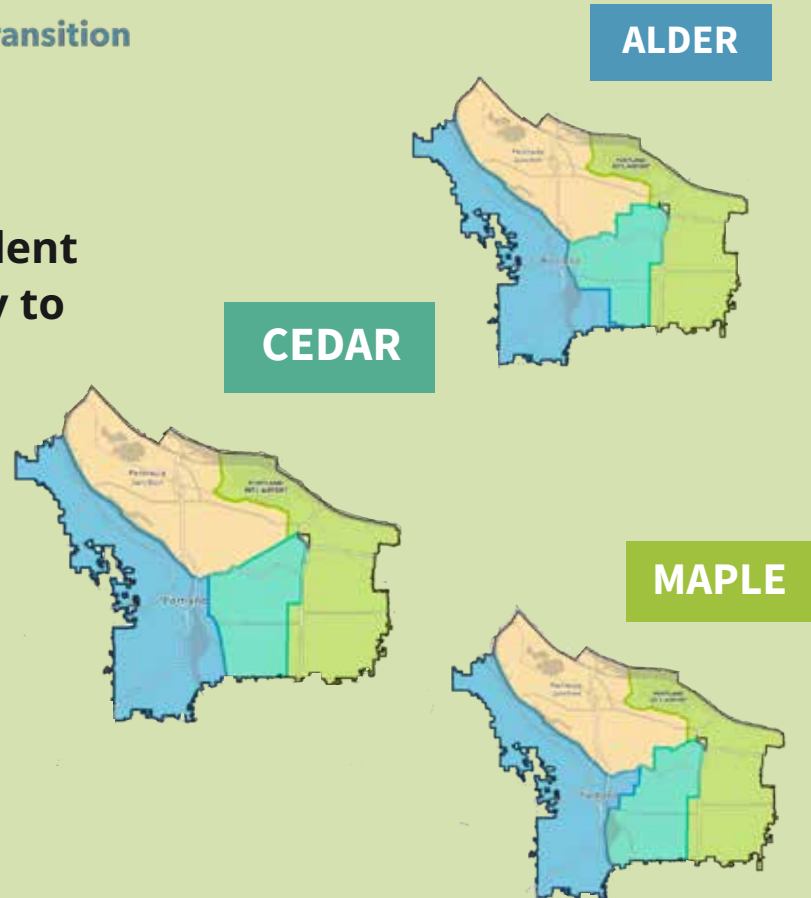
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★ STAR FEATURE



Knitters enjoy working with other yarn fans. The Community for Positive Aging also has a book group, a film discussion group and assistance in working with electronic devices. Once a month it shows a film, free of charge, with popcorn. (CfPA)



Card games, outdoor group walks and free vaccine clinics are some of the activities and services offered by the Community for Positive Aging. (CfPA)



A ukulele group has been gathering for practice and performances for several years. (CfPA)

adults from diverse backgrounds.

Between 2015-19, the center added services, including health promotion classes and workshops. In 2015, the center was one of only two West Coast groups to receive a National Council on Aging grant to pilot programs focusing on health, finances, relationships, personal growth and community involvement.

During the pandemic, the center closed its doors but offered programs virtually and adapted other programs serving vulnerable and isolated community members. When vaccines became available, the center offered free clinics. In 2021, the center absorbed The Giving Tree and established a monthly Asian Food Pantry to provide free, culturally specific foods for older people who might have difficulty finding them.

This year, CfPA has developed a community health program to provide information at community gatherings and the center. The National Council on Aging has provided a one-year grant to provide free COVID and flu shots at a monthly clinic.

Community members can help support CfPA by attending a benefit concert Sept. 5 at Grant High School. The intergenerational event will include Pink Martini, the Hollywood Ukulele Group (HUG) and the Royal Blues, the school's singing ensemble.

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Rick and Tammy Slagter plan to close Natural Furniture in Montavilla at the end of August. Rick Slagter, 70, said he didn't want to sign another five-year lease and chose retirement to spend more time with family. (Janet Goetze)

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# Natural Furniture owners call it quits

*After serving generations of families for nearly 40 years, Rick, Tammy Slagter to retire*

By Janet Goetze  
janetgoetze@star-news.info

Natural Furniture arrived seven years ago in the Montavilla neighborhood business district, bringing customers from its Northeast Broadway store and attracting new ones to 7960 S.E. Stark St.

However, the shop specializing in all-wood furniture will close at the end of August when the lease expires, said owners Rick and Tammy Slagter.

"I turned 70 and decided I didn't want to sign another five-year lease," Rick said. Instead, the couple plans to spend more time with family and maybe take a few trips.

They still have a lease at their warehouse on Northeast Columbia Boulevard. Anything remaining at the Stark Street shop, where everything is marked down for final sale, may be stored at the warehouse after the couple donates other items to social service organizations.

Rick Slagter said he has sold furniture — some unfinished and some finished at the warehouse — to generations of some families.

"That's the sad part of closing," he said, contemplating the possibility of losing contact with people he has seen over the years.

Among recent customers are Ian and Sara Van Loh who have been seeking furniture for their midcentury-modern house.

"We are here almost every weekend," said Ian Van Loh. He was sorry to hear that the store would close at the end of summer, noting it's the only shop with new furniture in the business district.

The location has been good for them business-wise and personally because it's not far from their home, the Slagters said. They moved the store from Northeast Eighth Avenue and Broadway after a California developer bought the half-block and declined to renew leases, Tammy Slagter said.

Natural Furniture, which features furniture in a wide variety of woods, was started by Harry Ditcher in 1975. Rick Slagter, who had been working in a family auto repair business, moved from Arizona in 1977 and started working for Ditcher. In 1984, Ditcher decided to retire and move to California, and he sold the Northeast Broadway business to Rick Slagter.

In 1989, Tammy Slagter was working evenings at a video store across from Natural Furniture. The couple met one evening when Rick went into the video store. Not long afterward, the video store owner asked Rick

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**★ STAR FEATURE**

if he wanted to call Tammy for a date. Rick admitted he did, and their relationship developed into marriage in 1991.

Today, Tammy does the business accounting and also orders furniture from several states and countries.

The most popular sales item is bookcases, Rick Slagter said. Many are in the store, but some customers want bookcases to fit a specific place in their home. For years, he said, a Gresham woodworker has filled the custom orders.

Chests of drawers and dining tables are the next most popular items, the Slagters said. But that's not all they carry. End tables, headboards for beds, and coffee tables are available, too. The shop has children's tables and chairs and small desks that resemble those once found in neat rows in classrooms.

The furniture is made from a variety of woods, but a favorite of Tammy Slagter is alder. Other choices include ash, birch, cherry, eucalyptus, mahogany, maple, oak, pine and poplar.

Parawood, which originated in South America, is a very pale color and very hard. It sometimes is called "Asian oak," Rick



Dining sets, bookcases, headboards, end tables and even wooden lazy susans are available at Natural Furniture. Everything is on sale as the owners prepare to close the store after nearly 40 years. (Louie Duenas)

Slagter said.

In the 19th century, an Englishman, Henry Wickham, transported seeds from the Amazon to England where they sprouted into seedlings. The trees were transported to Malaysia where they formed rubber plantations. The trees' vegetable gum is made into rubber. They are tapped much like the maple trees with sap that becomes syrup. After 25 to 30 years, however, not enough of the material is produced. Then the rubber trees are cut down to become parawood.

A hardwood with striking grain is sheesham. It is from a tree in India called the Dalbergia sissoo tree. A company in India produces the furniture and ships it to Portland, Rick Slagter said. The color can range from a light golden brown to a deeper reddish hue, and sometimes the colors swirl together.

Furniture finishes from stains may be oil- or water-based. Glazes can add a glossy or pearl effect. Paints may produce the effect that some homeowners desire. Natural Furniture displays the various finishes in display blocks around the shop.

"We finish about half the items we sell," Rick Slagter said. "Some people don't have the room or time."



Natural Furniture has a table and chairs for kids, as well as adult-size, in a variety of woods. (Janet Goetze)

**THE NEWSPAPERMAN**



**Grant Magazine** (a publication of Grant High School) featured a tribute about our own **Ted Perkins** (1962-2022) and Grant High alumnus. Thanks to Julian Balsley, writer and Nola Vigna, illustrator. To read the article, follow this link:  
<https://grantmagazine.com/the-newspaperman/>

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★ STAR FEATURE

# Jason Lee celebrates library upgrade, part of literacy champion award

By Janet Goetze

janetgoetze@star-news.info

The third graders entered the library at Jason Lee Elementary School exclaiming “Wow” as their eyes grew wide and scanned the bright walls and shelves of books organized by grade and topic.

Jason Lee’s library received a makeover as part of a Robinson Literacy Champion award

given annually by the Council of the Great City Schools, a coalition of the country’s 78 largest urban public school systems. The award is named for Richard M. Robinson, the late CEO of Scholastic Corp., the global children’s publishing, education and media company.

The school, at 2222 N.E. 92nd Ave., has received over 6,000 new books and a one-year site license to Scholastic Literacy Pro, a



Above: Fifth graders (from left) Addie Kabza, Bach Dinh and Julia Benitez-Zinzu are the first students to see the refurbished library at Jason Lee Elementary School. Below: Clifford the Big Red Dog, the character from a popular series of children’s books, visited students at Jason Lee Elementary School. (Janet Goetze)

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blended learning program that provides 24-hour access to more than 2,500 fiction and nonfiction books. Each student also received a summer book pack of 20 titles to keep, encouraging independent reading beyond the classroom.

A big, fuzzy incarnation of Clifford the Big Red Dog, who knew how to be a good friend according to the 1963 book written by Norman Bridwell, made an appearance at the library celebration, much to the delight of many students. Over the years, Clifford launched a popular book series and appeared on public television programs.

Younger students gathered around the Clifford character in the library. They took turns hugging him and a few even kissed his fuzzy nose.

Superintendent Guadalupe Guerrero of Portland Public

Schools was among district, Great City and Scholastic visitors to witness the students, entering by successive grade, seeing the changes in the library.

The kindergarten classes had extra attention as they sat on the “story steps,” a miniature amphitheater built into a corner of the library. Guerrero read a picture book to the morning kindergarten class and Ray Hart, executive director of the Council of Great City Schools, read to the afternoon group.

Three fifth grade students, the first to view the library makeover, smiled broadly at the changes they saw. Julia Benitez-Zinzu, 11, when asked what she most enjoys reading, said, “If you give me a book, I’ll read it.”

Addie Kabza, who will be 11 in August, said she likes reading mysteries and fantasy stories. Bach Dinh, 11, said he likes anime. That refers to hand-drawn and computer-generated film that tells stories in many genres, including adventure stories, comedy and drama.

One of the new posters in the library reads: “The books in your hands today are shaping the person you will become.”



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★ STAR FEATURE

# Persistence pays off

## Rose City Park gets new playground equipment thanks to neighbors

By Janet Goetze  
janetgoetze@star-news.info

Rose City Park has new playground equipment that is more than a safe place for kids to play. “It’s been a great community building thing,” said Rachel Gitner, one of the neighbors who has worked on the four-year project.

New equipment was installed in April, but a “Play Day” celebration in mid-June attracted a couple hundred community members for games, sweet treats, face-painting and climbing over the equipment.

Joe Saraceno and Ben Dudley formed the Rose City Park Project initially with the idea of raising money to replace the old, worn equipment on the playground at Northeast 62nd Avenue and Thompson Street. The committee grew to 20 members. “Then COVID took the steam out of everything,” Dudley said.

In talks with the Bureau of Parks and Recreation, they also felt deflated by the \$250,000 cost of new equipment. The neighborhood committee went on to raise \$25,000, but the total cost seemed almost prohibitive. However, Saraceno said, Gitner’s background in fundraising and her positive approach to the project helped them continue their efforts.

They talked to City Commissioners Carmen Rubio, then overseeing the Parks Bureau. They told her that people should be empowered to improve their parks when they see a need and not be stymied by a cost barrier. She agreed with them, the trio said, and arranged for a public-private partnership that included help from the Portland Parks Foundation, a nonprofit that works to improve parks in a variety of ways.

The Parks Bureau, Rubio’s office and the Walker Family Foundation, which supports Portland parks projects, contributed \$100,000 for new equipment and its installation. The playground project, which held a number of fundraising events, raised \$25,000. The Parks Foundation raised more than \$150,000.

“We were pretty persistent,” Saraceno said, suggesting that helped the city staff and supporters back the playground project for four years. Neighbors knocked on doors, sent out newsletters and held a number of fundraising events, he said. The Parks Foundation included information about the progress of the project in its online newsletters.



Children climb on the new “Smart Play Venti” that offers a variety of activities for physical development and coordination at the Rose City Park playground. (Janet Goetze)

About 2,000 children attending three nearby elementary schools will directly benefit from the new playground, according to the foundation. More than 200 children live in Home Forward’s Ellington Apartments, across a corner of the park and directly across from the Rose City Golf Course. The apartment complex is surrounded by small plots of grass, but no play area.

“Some of the kids were wandering onto the golf course,” Saraceno said, which annoyed golfers. “Now they will have a safe place to play.”

One of the new structures is a “Smart Play Venti” with multiple activity sites. It includes a cargo net, inclined cable walk, vertical climber, panel maze, tightrope bridge, chinning bar and other features, according to the foundation’s description.

It is designed, the foundation said in a newsletter, “to keep 5-12-year-olds engaged with activities that grow agility, balance, coordination, endurance, motor skills, eye-hand coordination, upper and lower body strength, problem-solving and strategic thinking.”

The Portland Parks Foundation sees the Rose City Park playground effort as a pilot project. “Hundreds of playgrounds across the city have failing slides, swing sets and whole structures that are obsolete or failing completely,” according to a recent newsletter.

The nonprofit is working with the bureau and Commissioner Dan Ryan, who now oversees the Parks Bureau, to identify other playgrounds in underserved areas of the city where a local committee can connect the foundation to neighborhood groups and businesses, the foundation said, “who want to make a new playground happen.”



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★ STAR FEATURE

# Historic Mississippi

With unique shops, bars, restaurants, music and more, there's no better place to spend a day strolling than this North Portland neighborhood

Nestled in the heart of North Portland, Mississippi Avenue offers a wealth of thriving service providers, eateries and storefronts designed to spark what the street fosters: wonder and joy. The historic and mural-adorned buildings provide a unique backdrop for any summer day's wander, catering to art lovers, food enthusiasts and all those who appreciate the unique and offbeat essence that defines the neighborhood's charm.

With every business carving out its own niche, you'll never have to experience the same day on Mississippi twice. Embark on a Saturday home goods shopping experience and couple it with feel-good vegan and gluten-free ice cream at the neighboring Kate's Ice Cream and Honey I'm Home storefronts. Or, explore the mystical world of Sage Crystals and complement it with a CBD-infused tea from The Apothecary Wellness Cafe. Spend a summer day — or week — on Mississippi Avenue to start unlocking the treasures the street has to offer.



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Honey I'm Home owners Riley Elliott, left, and Erin Sullivan combined their separate businesses and also do double duty as real estate agents. Get expert advice while shopping at the home-goods store. (Honey I'm Home)



Honey I'm Home carries has more than just the usual decor items. (Honey I'm Home)

## HONEY I'M HOME

In April, a new business stepped into the former home of Bishops Barbershop on Mississippi Avenue: Honey I'm Home. Although numerous large corporations vied for the space, the landlord took a chance on Erin Sullivan and Riley Elliott's home-

goods store to keep things local, supporting entrepreneurs who both live within five minutes of the street.

Sullivan and Elliott are both real estate agents serving the broader Portland area. Sullivan also owns a skin-care company, Dowey Laugh, which partially inspired the founding of Honey I'm Home — the business

name was born when Elliott began selling candles and other home goods alongside Sullivan's skin-care items at Portland markets. The success of their collaborative efforts inspired them to merge their businesses under one name, and open a home goods store offering all their favorite products along with real estate expertise.

"We have no backing, no investors," Sullivan says. "We're doing it all on our own." Their dedication to craftsmanship extends beyond curating products, as they hand-make several items sold in the store. This includes shampoo bars, beeswax wraps, dryer balls and more. Each product carefully chosen for the shop reflects their expertise in transforming living spaces into welcoming homes.

Beyond their retail offerings, Sullivan and Elliott host free "Home Buying 101" classes every month to educate community members

on becoming homeowners. As their class schedule develops, they are expanding their educational offerings to include creative classes such as bath bomb and jewelry making, painting and tie-dye parties and shoe-making courses. Sullivan also mentions that she and Elliott are open to new ideas, and are ready to find any experts to teach the skills that visitors are curious to learn. She adds, "Real estate agents get a bad rep, but we wanted to come from a place of education. ... It sounds cliché, but knowledge is really power. We help everyone, but love focusing on first-time homeowners."

Whether you are seeking home decor, skin-care essentials, or expert advice on homeownership, Honey I'm Home is a haven where aspirations can be nurtured and realized and houses can be transformed into cherished homes.

**ADDRESS:** 3705 N. Mississippi Ave. **WEBSITE:** Honeyimhomegoods.com **INSTAGRAM:** @Honeyimhomegoods **DON'T MISS:** Mini Mushroom Ladies — you'll just have to see for yourself

## GIFTYKITTY

GiftyKitty is the ultimate cat shop of the West Coast — but unlike Salty's Pet Supply right up the street, GiftyKitty is a cat store for humans, not the felines themselves.

Before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Larry Lydon leased his space on Mississippi Avenue to curate a home for his body jewelry business, which had generously supported local Portland artists for decades. As the lockdowns progressed,

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

★ STAR BLOCK X BLOCK



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Storybook Tudor in Portland's quintessential Hollywood District, on the market for the first time in 20 years. Mature trees on an oversized corner lot. The garden level and second story have a modern fresh feel, the main floor retains its original built-ins and period charm. Flexible office/den located off the kitchen plus a guest room and tiled full bath. The garden level boasts a fully equipped bar with concealed refrigerator, freezer, and dishwasher drawer. This home feeds to sought after Portland schools: Grant High School and Laurlhurst's K-8th program.



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★ STAR BLOCK X BLOCK

Visiting GiftyKitty is like a trip to Wonderland for cat lovers. Larry Lydon enlisted the help of Clody Cates to create a whimsical, one-of-a-kind shop for all things related to cats.. (Clody Cates)



he realized that he was ready to revamp the space and direction of his career to pursue new dreams. With the guidance of Clody Cates, Lydon brainstormed and honed his passions, and the two discovered a common theme among his interests: cats. Thus, GiftyKitty was born.

Prior to GiftyKitty, there were no brick-and-mortar cat shops along the West Coast, and both Cates and Lydon saw the unexplored niche as an opportunity for new beginnings. Mississippi Avenue was the perfect playground for this experimentation.

Cates took the lead in developing the ambience and environment of the store, hoping to create a location that inspired wonder and excitement. "Especially after the pandemic, I wanted to bring the spirit up a little bit and have a place that speaks for itself as well," Cates says.

GiftyKitty is precisely what the pair dreamed up: a cat-themed shop that is equally eco-minded as it is whimsical. "There's a

misconception about the old cat lady; we have every type of person (visiting)," Cate says., "Everybody loves cats."

With their innovative concept and eccentric decor, it didn't take long for GiftyKitty to become a beloved destination for Portland's feline enthusiasts and curious window shoppers alike.

Cates explains that the shop offers things "from the weird to the cute to the classic, even sometimes things that are a little salty." She adds that they have art with a street-art look, cutting boards and cutlery and gifts ranging from wallets to hot sauce. "Anything that has the cat on it or the shape of the cat, we are going to have one time ... we are always adding too, so new things to look at."

Striving to support both cats and cat lovers, GiftyKitty also raises funds for organizations such as House of Dreams, a no-kill cat shelter in Northeast Portland. Their ethically minded work also includes focusing their support on local, minority-owned small businesses in



Shane and Jesse Richardson prioritize health and nourishment at the Apothecary Wellness Cafe. Besides delectable sandwiches, treats and CBD-infused drinks, the store also carries an array of products and supplements. (Jonathan Ryan Taylor)

their product sourcing.

With the breadth of Clody's imagination and Lydon's entrepreneurial skills, the whimsical world of GiftyKitty is ever-expanding, and it's a must-see during a wander down Mississippi Avenue — even just for the experience of stepping inside the wonderland of the shop.

**ADDRESS:** 3719 N. Mississippi Ave. **WEBSITE:** Giftykitty.com **INSTAGRAM:** @Giftykitty\_gifts **DON'T MISS:** Eco-friendly tote bags, perfect for shopping up and down the street

**APOTHECARY WELLNESS CAFE**

The Apothecary Wellness Cafe is an extension of Shane and Jesse Richardson's first co-owned business, The Brothers Apothecary. The pair had already been successfully operating their warehouse out of Southeast Portland in 2021 when they decided they were ready to open their first retail shop: a superfood wellness cafe and CBD superstore.

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Wellness Cafe is offered with the option of a CBD infusion carefully crafted by The Brothers Apothecary. Additionally, the cafe offers a complete coffee menu, smoothies, juice shots and an array of grab-and-go food options, including customer-favorite toasted croissant sandwiches. As summer unfolds, the cafe offers a special treat with small-batch, homemade oat milk-based soft-serve.

In addition to ordering a CBD-infused hot chocolate or turkey and Swiss croissant sandwich, visitors interested in learning more about the benefits of CBD can peruse the array of products displayed around the shop, including superfood supplement capsules, teas, botanical-infused honey and more. With all of the products made with the guidance of the brothers themselves, it's guaranteed that when you visit the cafe, an expert will be on hand to help answer questions throughout your shopping experience.

Jesse has felt connected to Mississippi Avenue since his first visit to the Mississippi

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

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Jillian Aurelia Green, right, became dedicated to physical and spiritual healing after an illness left her bedridden for over a year. At her Sage Crystals store, all crystals are high grade and consciously sourced. (Sage Crystals)

Street Fair 10 years ago. “It quickly became one of my favorite streets due to the music, food and community all the business owners seemed to have,” he says. Since opening their doors, the Richardson brothers have contributed to this community, bringing people together over good drinks and food in their spacious location. Among the cafe’s highlights is Jesse’s current favorite menu item, their Brown Sugar Iced Shaken Espresso, which he describes as a “frothy, iced macchiato” that is sure to please any coffee enthusiast.

Furthermore, The Apothecary Wellness Cafe takes pride in using oat milk as the standard in all of their beverages at no additional charge. “We try to keep things as affordable as possible, because coffee shouldn’t be costing \$6 to \$7 per cup, in our opinion,” he says.

The Apothecary Wellness Cafe is the perfect spot for those seeking a harmonious blend of wellness, delectable treats and a warm community atmosphere. Stop by their storefront on Mississippi Avenue or visit them at the Mississippi Street Fair this summer to explore their extensive menu and learn more about the benefits of CBD.

**ADDRESS:** 3845 N. Mississippi Ave. **WEBSITE:** Theapothecarycafe.com **INSTAGRAM:** @Apothecary\_cafe **DON’T MISS:** wellness shots

**SAGE CRYSTALS**

Jillian Aurelia Green’s passion for crystals grew when the onset of an illness left her bedridden for over a year, and she decided to prioritize her physical and spiritual healing. It was during this period that Green reconnected with the crystals that she had cherished as a child.

“Seeing firsthand how supportive crystals can be in my own life, I saw an opportunity to connect others with the stones that would be most helpful to them,” Green says.

Thus, five years ago, Green began growing an online and social media presence for her new venture: Sage Crystals. In December 2021, Sage Crystals expanded beyond the digital realm, and the business found a permanent home on Mississippi Avenue.

Green’s shop offers consciously sourced and all-natural minerals, crystals and carvings. By working closely with their vendors, the Sage Crystals team ensures that all crystals are high grade and arrive completely natural and untreated. She also ensures that they are sourced from mines that are locally run, ensuring safe conditions and fair wages for all workers.

“In a space like ours, one that is meant to heal, the energy associated with the stones is incredibly important,” Green says. “We



believe it makes all the difference, and I’m glad to say many of our customers agree.”

In addition to their variety of crystals, Sage Crystals also offers crystalline-infused self-care and bath products, incense, singing bowls, books and more. They keep store copies of all of their tarot and oracle decks for visitors to check out, too, and on the weekends, Sage Crystals even hosts an on-site certified tarot reader.

Ultimately, what Green will always be most proud of is her business’ extraordinary crystal inventory — ranging from locally made jewelry, to pieces to keep close on a bedside table, to large home decor displays.

“By far, the most fulfilling part of this business is watching people connect to their perfect crystal,” says Green says. “There is so much beauty in holding space for someone as they realize they really can trust their intuition, and I’d like to think, although crystals aren’t by any means a woo-woo cure-all, we’re providing tools for our clients to empower and heal themselves.”

Although Green and her crystal merchants are available to answer questions and support the selection process when visitors come to the shop, she also urges people to peruse their website for more information on each stone and its metaphysical properties. Curious visitors can also learn more through Crystalizing Conversations, a spirituality and crystal-focused podcast co-hosted by Green.

She says, “I can’t tell you how many people are drawn to a particular piece, and then once they find out more, exclaim some variant of ‘Wow, that is exactly what I need right now!’” If you want to have that kind of joyous moment for yourself, pay a visit to Sage Crystals on Mississippi and figure out what kinds of crystals could be right for you.

**ADDRESS:** 3978 N. Mississippi Ave. **WEBSITE:** Sagecrystals.com **INSTAGRAM:** @Sagecrystals **DON’T MISS:** Lapis lazuli sourced from a woman-owned Afghani mine



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[www.portland.gov/parks/arts-culture/sffa](http://www.portland.gov/parks/arts-culture/sffa)



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★ STAR COMMUNITY CALENDAR

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## KIDSTEENS AND FAMILIES

### DISCUSS SOCIAL ISSUES

July 6. 7-8 p.m. Youths in grades 6-8 gather online to discuss contemporary themes of social justice through recent literature. Free. Email libraryevents@multcolib.org for details on how to join. More information: 503-988-5123. Multnomah County Library.

### STORIES FOR TODDLERS

July 7. 10:15-10:45 a.m. and 11:15-11:45 a.m. Continues Fridays. Toddlers with a favorite adult enjoy storytime with stories, songs and games that encourage language skills. Free. Tickets available 15 minutes in advance of each session. Maximum 30 in meeting room. Information: 503-988-5123. Hollywood library meeting room. 4040 N.E. Tillamook St.

### KIDS HEAR STORIES

July 8. 10 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Continues Saturdays. Children and their families gather for storytime to sing songs and hear poems and stories. First come, first served because of meeting room size. Information: 503-988-5123. Kenton library, 8226 N. Denver Ave.

### LEER EN ESPANOL

July 8. 11:30 a.m.-noon. Continues Saturdays. Stories and songs are in Spanish for families with children up to 6 years old. Se presentan cuentos, canciones y rimas en español para familias con niños de 0 a 6 años. Free. Information 503-988-5123. Kenton library, 8226 N. Denver Ave.

### ENJOYARTS

### SEE TOYS EXHIBIT

July 1. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Continues Tuesday-Sunday;



Hear (from left) violist Nokuthula Ngwenyama, harpist Han Las and flutist Valerie Coleman perform on July 5 when Chamber Music Northwest presents "New at Night: Many Angles." (Alberta Rose Theatre)

closed Monday. The third annual toy show is intended to delight both children and adults, or adults who harbor the child in themselves. Continues to July 23. The works include handmade dolls, mechanical sculptures, puppets and paintings. See the show and other art: www.guardinogallery.com. 503-281-9048. Guardino Gallery, 2939 N.E. Alberta St.

### STUDY HORROR FILMS

July 3. 6:30 p.m. Continues Mondays to July 24. Movie Madness University, the educational arm of the Hollywood Theatre, offers a crash course in Italian directors' horror films made in the U.S. Coordinator is Sara Reinhart but it includes no formal lecture or discussion. Limited to 18 students. Proof of vaccination is required, and masks are encouraged. Tuition: \$30. Registration: https://hollywoodtheatre.org/events/. 503-234-4363. Films shown at Movie Madness Multiplex, 4320 S.E. Belmont St.

### SEE PRE-CODE MOVIES

July 5. 6:30 p.m. Continues Wednesdays to July 28. At Movie Madness University, the educational arm of the Hollywood Theatre, examine "Forbidden Hollywood:



"Blue Car Man," ceramic, Kim Murton (Guardino Gallery)

Complicated Women." Explore four films made in the Pre-Hays Code days, which subtly challenge societal norms. Limited to 18 students. Tuition: \$75. Registration: https://hollywoodtheatre.org/events/. 503-234-4363. Films shown at Movie Madness Multiplex, 4320 S.E. Belmont St.

### HEAR TRIO PERFORM

July 5. 8 p.m. Chamber Music Northwest presents "New at Night: Many Angles," with the flute, viola, harp trio of umama womama. Hear a variety of new music by flutist Valerie Coleman, violist Nokuthula Ngwenyama and Harpist Han Lash, a trio of composers and performers. Tickets: \$30 general, \$20 under age 30, \$10 under age 18. Albertarosetheatre.com. Alberta Rose Theatre, 3000 N.E. Alberta St.

### STUDY 'NEW HOLLYWOOD'

July 6. 6:30 p.m. Continues to July 27. At Movie Madness University, study the films of four directors who made important contributions in the New Hollywood. Limited to 18 students. Tuition: \$75. Registration: https://hollywoodtheatre.org/events/. 503-234-4363.



"Raven Toy," oil on panel, James Dowlin (Guardino Gallery)



"Olivia," electric moving metal sculpture, Chris Cole (Guardino Gallery)

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 18



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**★ STAR COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Films shown at Movie Madness Multiplex, 4320 S.E. Belmont St.

### 'COSMIC SHAKE' OPENS

July 7. 5-8 p.m. Visit the opening show, "Cosmic Shake," with Dan Lam's sculptures. It explores new shapes and textures. Continues to Aug. 5. Hours noon-6 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday. Chefas Projects, 134 S.E. Taylor, Suite 203.

### STUDY HIGGINS FILMS

July 11. 6:30 p.m. Continues Tuesdays to Aug. 1. At Movie Madness University, study four films by Colin Higgins: "Harold and Maude," "Foul Play," "9 to 5," and "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas." Explore his compassion, wit and championing of underdogs and outsiders. Instructor and discussion leader is Max Swanson, filmmaker, performer, writer and educator. Class limited to 18 students. Proof of vaccination is required. Tuition is \$75. Registration: <https://hollywoodtheatre.org/events/>. 503-234-4363. Films shown at Movie Madness Multiplex, 4320 S.E. Belmont St.

### 'BELONG' SHOWS ART

July 25. 7 p.m. The Belong Art Community presents a celebration of Disability Pride Month. "American Idol" winner Lee DeWyze is headliner. Opening the show is



"Lyle, Lyle Crocodile" will be shown in Spanish with English subtitles July 20 at Wellington Park. (Wikipedia)

Fran Viele and many Belong Art Community's residents. Net ticket sales and donations will help Belong Art Community to develop and create together through classes, art and experiences. Tickets: \$30 advance, \$40 day of show. [Albertarosetheatre.com](http://Albertarosetheatre.com). Alberta Rose Theatre, 3000 N.E. Alberta St.

### FOR SENIORS

#### GET FIT WITH DANCE

July 5. 9:30-10:30 a.m. Continues Wednesdays. Join in a fun time of dance fitness. Free. 503-288-8303. Senior Center, 1820 N.E. 40th Ave.

#### LEARN ABOUT SERVICES

July 6. 9:30-10:30 a.m. Want to volunteer or just learn about the Community for Positive Aging? Join an informational session to learn what the center offers and how to help out. Meet staff and volunteers who can answer questions and help make connections. Free.

503-288-8303. Senior Center, 1820 N.E. 40th Ave.

### CELEBRATE 50 YEARS

July 22. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Celebrate the Senior Center's 50th anniversary at a block party, including live music, food carts, a BIPOC vendor market, children's activities and a health and wellness fair. Free. 503-288-8303. Northeast 40th Avenue between Sandy Boulevard and Hancock Street.

### INGENERAL

#### VISIT WOODLAWN MARKET

July 1. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The Woodlawn Farmers Market, serving Woodlawn, Piedmont and Concordia neighborhoods, strives to make local food accessible while supporting small farmers and makers. It offers a \$20 SNAP match for those with an Oregon Trail Card. Continues Saturdays through October. Enjoy swing and standards with Bill Coones and Matt Schiff on July 22. Northeast Durham Avenue and Dekum Street.

#### GAIN TECH HELP

July 6. 3:30-5:30 p.m. Meet one-on-one with a knowledgeable tech helper to find answers to questions about mobile devices, websites, getting started with tech and more. Assistance expected to be offered in English, Chinese and Vietnamese. To find more times, call 503-988-5123. Free. Gregory Heights library meeting room, 7921 N.E. Sandy Blvd.

#### STUDY PLAN FOR 82ND

July 20. 5-7 p.m. The Portland Bureau of Transportation, other agencies and community partners host a workshop on improvements proposed for the center section of 82nd Avenue. It runs through the Madison South, South Tabor, Montavilla and Powellhurst-Gilbert neighborhoods. Information: [82ndavenue@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:82ndavenue@portlandoregon.gov) or 503-865-8282 or 711 Oregon Relay Service for the hearing impaired. Interpreters available in Spanish, simplified Chinese, Vietnamese, Russian and American Sign Language. Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO), 8188 S.E. Division St.



Learn how yeast and bacteria interact to create kombucha July 26 at Alberta Rose Theatre. (Alberta Rose Theatre)

### CLASS OF '73 TO MEET

July 22. 3-7 p.m. The 50th reunion of the Grant High School class of 1973 will feature a Hawaiian buffet with wine, beer and sodas followed by a party. Cost: \$60 per person. RSVP at [ghsreunion1973@gmail.com](mailto:ghsreunion1973@gmail.com). Noho's Hawaiian Cafe, 4627 N.E. Fremont St.

### SEE NORTH 82ND PLAN

July 27. 5-7 p.m. The Portland Bureau of Transportation, other agencies and community partners host a workshop on improvements proposed for the north district of 82nd Avenue. This section runs through the Cully, Sumner, Roseway and Madison South neighborhoods. Information: [82ndavenue@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:82ndavenue@portlandoregon.gov) or 503-865-8282 or 711 Oregon Relay Service for the hearing impaired. Interpreters available in Spanish, simplified Chinese, Vietnamese, Russian and American Sign Language. McDaniel High School, 2735 N.E. 82nd Ave.

### VIEW FAMILY MOVIE

July 20. 7:30 p.m. Hear a pre-movie concert with Pura Vida Orquesta and stay for the movie, "Lyle, Lyle Crocodile," about 8:50 p.m. Film is shown in Spanish with English subtitles. Hosted by Roseway Neighborhood Association. Information: [Roseway.org](http://Roseway.org). Free. Wellington Park, 6635 N.E. Mason St.

### LEARN ABOUT KOMBUCHA

July 26. 7 p.m. Science on Tap presents "Kombucha Scoby: A (Mostly) Happily-Ever-After Story of Microbial Cooperation." Chris Curtin, associate professor of fermentation microbiology at Oregon State University, describes his laboratory's quest to work out which yeast and bacteria are most commonly found in the "scoby" of kombucha and how they cooperate to create the nonalcoholic drink. Tickets: \$25 general admission, \$15 students, \$35 premium in front rows and \$45 supporter in premium seating and pint glass. [Albertarosetheatre.com](http://Albertarosetheatre.com). Alberta Rose Theatre, 3000 N.E. Alberta St.



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# ★ STAR PET CONNECTIONS

## Spay & Save Program assists low-income families



BY LISA LAKES

LISALAKES@STAR-NEWS.INFO

The costs of veterinary medical care have steadily increased, making pet ownership difficult for low-income families.

With the onset of "kitten season" some

families may struggle with preventing unwanted kittens. The solution is to spay or neuter family cats.

Since 2010, the Spay & Save program has assisted families in keeping their pet population under control. The program focuses mainly on cats and kittens. The program is administered by the Animal Shelter Alliance of Portland (ASAP). While ASAP is not tax-exempt, it functions largely on charitable contributions from foundations, businesses and individuals.

According to the ASAP website, the cat intake at local shelters has been reduced by 62% since the program started. The Oregon Humane Society partners with ASAP to provide spay-and-neuter surgeries. All surgeries are performed by licensed OHS veterinarians assisted by Oregon State University veterinary students. In 2022 2,318 feline surgeries were performed at the Portland campus and 1,751 at the Salem

### RESOURCES

- To make an appointment, call the Community Veterinary Hospital at OHS 503-802-6800
- [www.asapmetro.org/spay-save/](http://www.asapmetro.org/spay-save/)

campus.

For families to qualify for the program there are two categories — those receiving state or federal government assistance, such as Medicaid or food stamps, or those with low annual income (see links for details). Costs are reduced depending on the family's status. Rates start as low as \$25 for those on federal or state government aid. Since private veterinarian clinic fees can run into hundreds of dollars for spaying and neutering, the program is critical for those who qualify. To be considered for surgery, kittens must be at least 8 weeks old and weigh 2 or more pounds.



This Sandy family had their three cats cared for through the Spay & Save Program. (Animal Shelter Alliance of Portland)

### ★ STAR SERVICE DIRECTORY

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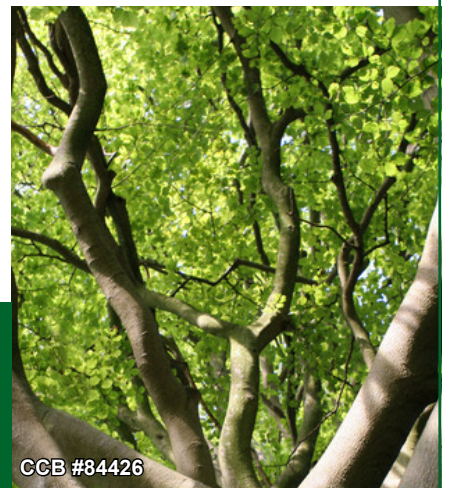
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### Interesting



as of 6/21/23, per RMLS

\*64 active listings for Grant High School

\* 56 residential homes + 8 condos



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- \$244-399,900 = 6 properties or 9%
- \$400-500,000 = 3 properties or 4.7%
- \$525-599,900 = 9 properties or 14%
- \$600-679,000 = 3 properties or 4.7%
- \$700-800,000 = 6 properties or 9.3%
- \$800-900,000 = 4 properties or 6%
- \$900-1million = 7 properties or 11%
- \$1 M-1.295 M = 14 properties**
- or 21.8% (greatest # of listings)**
- \$1.3M-1.499M = 3 properties or 4.7%
- \$1.5 M-1.8 M = 7 properties or 11%
- \$3 Million = 1 property or 1.6%
- \$4 Million = 1 property or 1.6%

