



ISSUE 1/VOLUME 5  
**WINTER 2021**



A free publication from Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods (NECN)

HEY NEIGHBOR! This newspaper is a free publication brought to you by the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods (NECN)

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods (NECN) increases neighborhood livability through highly inclusive civic engagement and grassroots community building. NECN believes in creating healthy neighborhoods by engaging people to become directly involved in determining how their neighborhood evolves.

**CONTACT NECN:**

4815 NE 7th Ave  
 Portland, OR 97211  
 503.388.5004  
 info@necoalition.org  
 www.necoalition.org  
 facebook.com/NECoalition  
**View stories online at:**  
 www.HeyNeighborPDX.com

Non-Profit Org  
 US Postage  
 PAID  
 Portland OR  
 Permit 2235

Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods  
 4815 NE 7th Ave  
 Portland OR 97211

# Cleaner Air Law Ramps Up with Industrial Emissions Testing

By NECN Staff

**T**wo years after the Cleaner Air Oregon law’s passage – mandating the scrutiny of industrial air quality statewide – the first Portland facility is beginning to test its air emissions.

Community organizers say the bureaucracy has been slow to move, but the payoff is stronger regulations on air quality with the potential to impact Portland’s very high rates of air pollution.

State DEQ officials have a list of companies they have determined as priorities for emissions testing through Cleaner Air Oregon. In North and Northeast Portland, the big polluters include Columbia Steel, the Owens-Brockway glass recycling plant near the Portland Airport, and NW Metals. So far, Columbia Steel

is the only one moving forward with emissions tests.

At NW Metals, public comment on proposed new mobile metals

“DEQ officials have a list of companies they have determined as priorities”

shredder has prompted community outcry on the lack of air emissions data; local residents agitated at a public hearing in mid-December, and now the deadline for public comment has been extended to Monday, Feb. 8, 2021. Find out more about the process and the facility



Columbia Steel facilities sits on an approximately 87 acre site in Northeast Portland.

online at oregon.gov/deq, search for “NW Metals: Columbia Boulevard Location.”

Meanwhile, this year, for the first time, Columbia Steel – at the request of the local community

– for a 10-day stretch in December conducted precise testing of all of their emissions, looking for toxic chemicals that are cancerous and hurt human health.

See AIR pg 4

# Jimmy Wilson: Entrepreneur Joins NECN Board



Jimmy Wilson

By Lisa Loving, Hey! Neighbor

**A**lready a member of the Eliot Neighborhood Association Board, entrepreneur Jimmy Wilson is the newest member of the NECN Board of Directors. Hey Neighbor! spoke with him recently about his vision of community leadership, his experience in the local business economy, and his family roots in North and Northeast neighborhoods.

**Hey Neighbor!** Thanks for taking the time to speak with us, Mr. Wilson. HN! What made you choose to be on the NECN board?

**Jimmy Wilson:** First of all, there was a vacancy there and I wanted to be connected to the larger community, not just Eliot – I wanted to be connected to all the boards. All the neighborhoods that are under the banner of NECN are the neighborhoods where I grew up, and I feel like I can be a good asset in that. And I didn’t see a

number of people of color around that board? It could be that there is a lot of valuable information that needs to be shared – that the board doesn’t know – from a different perspective.

**HN!** Can you talk about where you grew up and started your businesses?

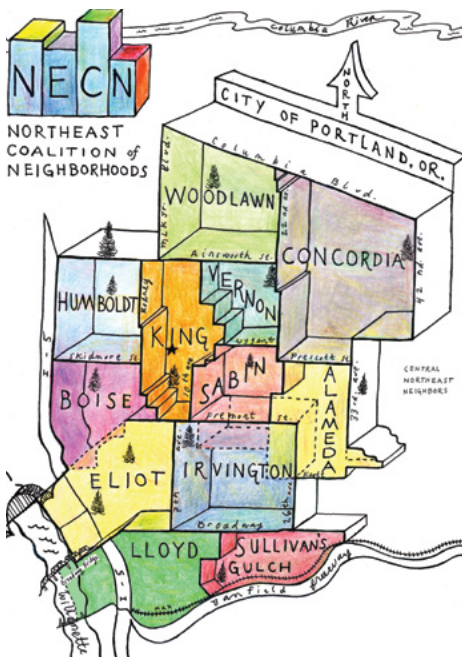
**JW:** I’ve been in Portland, Oregon, all my life of 60 years. And that’s a lot of changes; right now I see that I’m one of the few still left, over on Williams and Vancouver Avenue, as a Black business owner – I’m one of the lone survivors. I’ve been doing this ever since 2003. Back then I started seeing a lot of us leaving? But I wanted to do business. I wanted to be an example. I wanted to be a

See WILSON pg 2

**IN THIS ISSUE**

Neighbors Helping ..... 2  
 Vanport Square ..... 3  
 Pretty in Pink ..... 4  
**BEAUTY IN MURALS...5**  
 Mutual Aid ..... 6  
 Northstar Village ..... 8





## NORTHEAST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

**Alameda**  
2620 NE Fremont St.  
alamedapdx@gmail.com  
www.alamedaportland.com

**Boise**  
4115 N Mississippi Ave.  
boisena@gmail.com  
www.bnapdx.com

**Concordia**  
5736 N.E. 33rd Ave.  
Kennedy School Community Room  
chair@concordiapdx.org  
www.concordiapdx.org

**Eliot**  
120 NE Knott St.  
info@eliotneighborhood.org  
www.eliotneighborhood.org/association

**Humboldt**  
HNAnews@gmail.com  
www.humboldtneighborhood.org

**Irvington**  
1320 NE Brazee St.  
president@irvingtonpdx.com  
www.irvingtonpdx.com

**King**  
4815 NE 7th Ave.  
info@kingneighborhood.org  
www.kingneighborhood.org

**Lloyd**  
Visit [www.lloyddistrict.org](http://www.lloyddistrict.org) for meeting schedule and location

**Sabin**  
3535 NE 15th Ave.  
sabin@necoalition.org  
www.sabinpdx.org

**Sullivan's Gulch**  
1548 NE 15th Ave.  
sullivansgulch@necoalition.org  
www.sullivansgulch.org

**Vernon**  
5431 NE 20th Ave.  
vernon@necoalition.org  
www.vernonpdx.org

**Woodlawn**  
817 NE Madrona St.  
info@gowoodlawn.com  
www.gowoodlawn.com

*Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods (NECN), founded in 1974, is an independent nonprofit organization. NECN is one of seven neighborhood coalitions in Portland, which are primarily funded by the City's Office of Neighborhood Involvement. NECN identifies and takes on hyper-local issues to increase neighborhood livability and civic engagement. NECN's service area includes 12 neighborhoods in inner North/Northeast Portland: Alameda, Boise, Concordia, Eliot, Humboldt, Irvington, Lloyd, King, Sabin, Sullivan's Gulch, Vernon, and Woodlawn. Any person that resides or works in North/Northeast Portland can get directly involved!*

## Wilson cont'd from pg 1

role model. I wanted to let people of color know that we can survive in this, you know?

I had my start in business when our church had a Black owned grocery store on Killingsworth and North Michigan Avenue. Bishop A A Wells gave me the opportunity to oversee that 28,000 square foot building with a promise: He said to don't forget where you came from and to do unto others as I'm doing to you, help someone else. This is why I give back.

Then I started my own business – dry cleaning. And I found out that the dry cleaning wasn't making a lot of money? So I decided

“I wanted to let people of color know that we can survive in this, you know?”

to go ahead and do a food cart. And I started doing a food cart in 2006 and that went off really well. It started making more money than the dry cleaner.

And then I hooked up with a group called MESO (Minority Enterprise Systems of Oregon). That's when I was over on Williams Avenue and Fremont. Then I moved from Williams and Fremont to Vancouver and Frenont – maybe a block away? And in moving a block away, I found out that my income dropped tremendously. Just a block away.

I didn't want to get too discour-

aged but – my business was dying. And MESO hooked me up to a financial respirator machine. They hooked me up to a tube of training? They hooked me up to a tube of finance? They had a tube of “hang in there.” I had all these kinds of tubes hooked up to me? And then all of a sudden as I hung in there, I got back focus, the desire to want to quit left. I saw income coming in.

I was doing well with my first food cart and then I said: Maybe I should quit the food cart and just start renting the food cart out so that it could free me up with time? A lot of business owners don't have a lot of time. So I leased the food cart out and every month it was giving me income and I didn't have to be there (except when there was a problem I needed to come down and fix).

So I got another food cart and another food cart and I started leasing them out, and that was a revenue stream coming in. So I ended up with about seven food carts and they aren't the fanciest, but they are sustainable. And that's where I'm at now. I'm a food cart pod owner.

**HN!** Talk a little bit about where you grew up. What was the neighborhood like?

**JW:** I grew up really in the King neighborhood. And then I moved over to the Piedmont area, over by the post office there.

But my upbringing was about survival, meaning that you live in a situation and you gotta deal with it at the time. You know? I wasn't a bad guy, I've never been to jail. I never did anything that caused me to have to worry about

looking behind my back. I always was a giver. Now that I'm older and I'm in the church, I'm involved in about 11 different areas – finance, the head deacon, I'm on the trustee board, I can go on and on and on with that list. As far as community ties go, I'm very involved with the Latino Network, the Laotian community, Chinese community, Ethiopian network, I've got some ties with a little bit of everybody in the community.

That's why I'm on the NECN board – I want to be utilized in a way to make a difference. But you've got to let me be me? Because I'm solution-based. I tell a lot of people that I'm the aftermath of what the past did. I'm talking about wealth; I'm talking about health; I'm talking about the economy and what it coulda, woulda, shoulda. You say you wanna help? But what does that help really mean? What does that help really look like?

Because I've been speaking out a long time in the community. I've had my voice unheard. I've had my voice heard but not been given recognition for it. And that is a cold feeling; that is sad.

**HN!** What issues do you see that are important in the neighborhoods?

**JW:** I think mainly, involvement. You have reasons why people get involved, you have reasons why people don't get involved. And you've got to find out – for the core group – the reasons for that? Why aren't people talking to people? Why aren't people listening to people? Understanding how to have patience, and listening, are very important.

## Sabin: Neighbors Helping Neighbors

**N**eighbors help neighbors. Across the country and around the world neighbors have helped neighbors in all kinds of situations and disasters, from pandemics to earthquakes. It's what people do.

The Sabin Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) is made up of Sabin residents who have been trained by Portland's Bureau of Emergency Management to help other neighbors in times of disaster or crisis. Now, Sabin NET is creating a program so that other nearby neighbors can help each other directly.

### The first step is easy.

Neighbors within a couple blocks of each other share contact information with one or two of their neighbors who volunteer to be the neighbor coordinators, and the neighbor coordinators share their con-



tact information in exchange. The contact information might include the names of the people who live in a home, their phone numbers, and their email addresses. The contact information allows the neighbor coordinators to facilitate communications between neighbors. The information makes it easy for one neighbor to ask the coordinator to check if another neighbor is OK if he or she has not been seen for a while. Or a neighbor who is feeling unwell can ask the neighbor coordina-

tor if someone could go to the store for them.

Sabin NET is developing materials to help neighbor coordinators work with their neighbors to exchange contact information safely during COVID-19. Also, Sabin NET will remain in contact with the neighbor coordinators to help them continue to help their neighbors. Over

time Sabin NET will provide additional information about neighborhood resilience. Once COVID-19 is under control, Sabin NET will offer presentations on resilience and disaster preparedness so neighbors can be ready to help each other during other disasters, including an earthquake.

Do you have questions, or would you be willing to volunteer as a coordinator for your neighbors? Contact Sabin NET at [sabin.neighbor.help@gmail.com](mailto:sabin.neighbor.help@gmail.com).





Vanport Square was the brainchild of a unique Black-led development team co-anchored by Jeana Woolley.

PHOTO BY MARGRETO HARTIGAN

# Jeana Woolley and Vanport Square

By Margaret O'Hartigan

Over the past six months, many storefronts up and down MLK have remained boarded up after being repeatedly vandalized, some even looted. Homeless individuals are camped in front of many storefronts shut down by the pandemic, wherever there are nooks and crannies capable of providing some shelter from the winter weather. Named after the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., the main street of Portland's King Neighborhood, MLK Jr Blvd, now appears to be more of a dystopic reflection of a dream lost rather than a remembrance of the man whom the nation will pause to honor on the third Monday in January.

Dr. King's invocation of a "beloved community" – which would meet the needs of all and discriminate against none – was echoed by Jeana Woolley recently as she discussed her forty-five years of living in, working and advocating to make King Neighborhood a better and more prosperous place. A woman of color and long-time resident of King, one of Jeana's most visible accomplishments in the neighborhood is Vanport Square – the commercial condo development between Sumner and Emerson streets just across MLK from the Blazers' Boys and Girls Club.

Jeana articulates a wholistic view of solutions that are needed to address racial injustice and institutional racism, including addressing issues such as voter empowerment, education, affordable housing, business development, wealth creation, workforce development, and community participation in institutions that impact residents' lives – to name a few – and she herself has worked on many of these issues during her long

career. As a young woman in the 1970s, she worked with grassroots community organizations to increase voter registration in North and Northeast Portland, and helped organize public forums in the community to vet and endorse local political candidates who would be more responsive to the Black community's issues and needs. She served on the Community Coalition for School Integration in the late 1970s that successfully fought Portland Public Schools to end the policy of busing Black children from Northeast neighbor-

hoods to schools all over the city. Later in her career, Jeana served on the Oregon State Board of Education for 9 years – including time as the chair – during the period that saw implementation of the 21st Century School Act, together with adoption of new curriculum content standards and graduation goals.

Under Bud Clark's mayoralty in the late 1980s, the city drew up plans to revitalize parts of North and Northeast Portland in preparation for building the Convention Center in the Lloyd District. These plans were developed by a panel appointed by the Mayor with no real representation or input from N/NE residents. Organizations in the Black community rejected the city's plan and organized themselves to implement a community-wide planning process to create



Jeana Woolley and Ray Leary, at the Emanuel Hospital Reconciliation Project breakfast, 2012.

PHOTO BY LISA LOVING

"It was serendipity how this first deal came together"

an alternative, grassroots N/NE revitalization plan.

Woolley was a founding member of the North/Northeast Economic Development Alliance – together with Ron Herndon, Carl Talton, Sheila Holden, Edna Robertson and many others. This new non-profit organization, in partnership with the Black United Front, played a leadership role in managing the community planning process, and developing what became known as the Albina Community Plan. This Plan was adopted in October 1993 under Mayor Vera Katz. Jeana also was a founding board member of other community development organizations formed in the 1980s such as Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives, Inc. (PCRI) and Albina Community Bank (now known as Beneficial Bank), which still serve the community today.

During the late 1980s, Jeana was working in development as operations manager for Pacific Development (a real estate subsidiary of PacifiCorp), which owned 90 blocks of property in the Lloyd District surrounding the Lloyd Center mall. She left this position in 1991 to start her own consulting and real estate development business, JM Woolley & Associates. Her first development project was

Allen Fremont Plaza, an affordable senior housing project located on Northeast Fremont Street between Garfield and Mallory.

"It was serendipity how this first deal came together," Jeana says. The Portland School District had donated the old Beech School site to the General Baptist Convention of Northwest, a coalition of African American Baptist churches in the Northwest states. She heard that the leaders of the Convention were meeting with various elected officials in City Hall to try to secure support and resources for redeveloping their site for affordable housing. She contacted the organization and told them she could help them develop their site. They asked her to prepare a proposal and present it to the Convention Board, led by Reverend O.B. Williams. The Convention eventually took a leap of faith and partnered with Jeana on the redevelopment of their site. The rest is history. Allen Fremont Plaza became the first low-income housing tax credit development in the state of Oregon by an African American organization. It was completed in 1997.

In 2001, Jeana teamed up with former Urban League interim president and current MERC Commissioner Ray Leary to develop what would become known as Vanport Square. Leary had played a critical role in the creation of Adidas' first discount retail store in the U.S., at the corner of MLK and NE Alberta. Jeana and Ray competed in an RFP (Request for Proposals) process and won the development rights to two full blocks of property on MLK that had been purchased by the Portland Development Commission (now Prosper Portland) for community revitalization. Utilizing low-cost financing from the Urban Renewal and New Market Tax Credit programs, they developed a commercial condominium project that ultimately provided 16 ownership units for small, minority and woman-owned businesses on the north block. In the second phase of the project, they brokered the development of affordable single-family ownership homes that the community had wanted on the west side of the block. These two developers devoted countless hours to public outreach and community participation to best fulfill the stated needs and wishes of area residents during the development process.

It was at one of those community outreach meetings in the early 2000's that I met Jeana's son, J.T. Flowers. While his mother conducted the meeting, J.T. was at a side table, doing homework. Jeana's face breaks into a glowing smile when asked about her son's subsequent academic career. A graduate of Lincoln High School, J.T. attended and graduated from Yale University in 2017. He subsequently was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship, and has since earned two Master's degrees from Oxford University. He currently lives in London. Jeana sums up, "I'm so proud of him, what he's accomplished and who he's become. He's truly a global citizen."



## Air cont'd from pg 1

Also for the first time, they're looking for greenhouse gases and fine particulate matter that damage health and contribute to global warming. Activists are calling it a groundbreaking moment in Oregon environmental history.

“Activists are calling it a groundbreaking moment”

Local residents' new worry is this: state environmental officials are moving ahead with their old process of issuing an air permit to Columbia Steel that will last for five years – before the actual emissions test results are made public.

As Hey Neighbor! went to press in mid-December, activists led a letter-writing campaign to the air quality office at the Oregon DEQ urging them not to approve the steel company's air permit before the public can determine whether there is hexavalent chromium in their emissions – among other things.

Activists are calling for Columbia Steel – and the other companies – to disclose the content of their emissions, and put remediation in place if it is shown to be warranted, including air scrubbers, a thermal oxidizer or bag house system.

For now, activists are gearing up to make sure that the emissions test results are made public in February.

For more information or to get involved, contact [charlotte@necoalition.org](mailto:charlotte@necoalition.org).



## Pretty in Pink

By Shireen Hasan

**P**retty in Pink would describe this woman, the amazing Minister Kim Meyers.

Meyers is one of the top ranking African American women in the nation working with one of the most prestigious and prominent companies, Mary Kay. Mary Kay is known for empowering women from all walks of life and cultures to become their own boss, reach their highest potential, and make their dreams come true!

As an Independent Senior Sales Director, with

over 4 million dollars in team sales, Minister Kim Meyers has achieved the opportunity to make use of the emblem of success. What might that be? The one and only, Mary Kay Pink Cadillac!

Minister Kim Meyers is also on track to receive the highest honor of becoming a National Sales Director. Minister Kim Meyers wants to reach and help restore those who have suffered crises from life's experiences, provide them with an opportunity to benefit from a life of blessing and prosperity, while continuing to seek Christ for herself.



## THE GIVE BIN ACCEPTS ALL REUSABLE GOODS\*.

We deliver all donations to local Portland nonprofits.



bin location: 5431 NE 20th Ave

\*except batteries

[thegivebin.com](http://thegivebin.com)

[/thegivebin/](https://www.facebook.com/thegivebin/)

[/company/the-give-bin](https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-give-bin/)

[@thegivebin](https://twitter.com/thegivebin)

## THE GIVE BIN ACEPTA TODOS LOS PRODUCTOS REUTILIZABLES\*.

Donamos todos los artículos a las organizaciones sin fines de lucro en Portland.



ubicación del contenedor: 5431 NE 20th Ave

\*excepto baterías

[thegivebin.com](http://thegivebin.com)

[/thegivebin/](https://www.facebook.com/thegivebin/)

[/company/the-give-bin](https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-give-bin/)

[@thegivebin](https://twitter.com/thegivebin)



# Our Tribute to Beauty, Hope and Fresh Air

The winter of 2021 promises to be historic, as communities around the nation – and the world – struggle forward through the deadly Covid 19 pandemic. This month Hey Neighbor! presents some of the unique public art – some of it brand new – in our neighborhoods. We invite you to trek outside to one of these bright, beautiful, meaningful pieces that were literally designed to bring hope to our streets.



PHOTOS BY LISA LOVING

Black Pride, at the Lifeworks NW House of Umoja, students of the Black Education Center and Lewis Harris, as part of the Albina Mural Project (1978-1983), led by artist Isaka Shamsud-Din. 4941 NE 17th Ave.



Children and Youth Bill of Rights, by Jesus Kobe Garcia and Margret Harburg at Killingsworth and North Interstate, was designed and painted in collaboration with kids from around the city. 5420 N Interstate Ave.



We Stand with You, artist Christian Grijalva's mural on the Union Market at Northeast Martin Luther King and NE Failing honors Brionna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and George Floyd. 3837 NE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.



Floyd Booker Sr Tribute. Here, Campo at Campographic painted two black-and-white photo-style images honoring the Booker family in Portland, which owns No Limits Stickers, the business beautified by the mural. 1703 Alberta St.



Community Cycling Center Mural, by Robin Corbo, depicts neighborhood figures and bright bikes. 1700 NE Alberta St. (Corbo also painted Women Making History in Portland, at 2335 North Clark at Interstate Ave.).



The Clary Sage Herbarium Mural by Rather Severe is one of the city's most popular spots to Instagram. 2901 NE Alberta St.



Still We Rise, by Arvie Smith, depicts key moments in Oregon Black history. 5055 NE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd. (Smith also painted the Garlington Mural at 3036 NE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.)

Until We Get There, by Mehran Heard, aka Eatcho, features local history and beloved neighbors, including Paul Knauls Sr., the "Mayor of Northeast Portland." 5055 NE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd. (Eatcho also painted "Voice to Be Thankful For," with Jeremy Nichols, in the alleyway of the Black United Fund of Oregon, 2828 NE Alberta St.)





# ACCESS OR DONATE: Portland-Area Mutual Aid Groups & Projects

- **Black Food Sovereignty Coalition** is a group of Black farmers creating new food distribution networks between farms and tables, and convening a growing dialogue about food and racial justice. Donate: [blackfoodnw.org/donate/](http://blackfoodnw.org/donate/).
- **The Black Resilience Fund** is a Black-led organization investing in the local African American community with direct cash assistance. Donate and/or apply here: [blackresiliencefund.com/request-mutual-aid](http://blackresiliencefund.com/request-mutual-aid).
- **The Equi Institute** works on advocacy work around queer and trans health care, including a medical committee at the C3PO villages. Also offering resource advice for folks writing in for healthcare. Email for services here [info@equi-institute.org](mailto:info@equi-institute.org), donate: [equi-institute.org](http://equi-institute.org).
- **Don't Shoot Portland** hosts food

and clothing giveaways, resource fairs, art shows, historical archiving workshops for BIPOC communities – too many things to mention. Coming soon: Black mental health services through Safer Spaces for Black Lives Matter. Donate or participate: [linktr.ee/dontshootportland](http://linktr.ee/dontshootportland).

Don't Shoot Portland/Fires Igniting the Spirit/Chuush Action Fund/Symbiosis/Snack Bloc action for indigenous water and grocery distribution is ongoing as needed, donate: [dontshootpdx.org/mutual-aid-with-fires-igniting-the-spirit](http://dontshootpdx.org/mutual-aid-with-fires-igniting-the-spirit).

- **Equitable Giving Circle** is a Black led organization about economic change from the roots up. "Feeding BIPOC families with food from BIPOC farms." Donate: [equitablegivingcircle.org](http://equitablegivingcircle.org).
- **Free Hot Soup** is a growing network of volunteers cooking

and delivering meals to unhoused and vulnerable people within the Portland metro area. Donation information and calls to volunteer: [facebook.com/groups/FreeHotSoup](https://facebook.com/groups/FreeHotSoup).

- **PDX Mutual Aid** is a hub of grassroots projects most specifically sharing food. Check them out: <https://linktr.ee/pdxmutualaid>.
- **PDX Wood Bloc's** Twitter profile says: 'Mutual aid in PDX, hoping to keep the community warm during the winter. DM if we can deliver some firewood to you or if you need some yard clean-up!' [twitter.com/PDXWoodBloc](https://twitter.com/PDXWoodBloc).



Portland Free Fridge

- **The Portland Free Fridge** movement is just one of many mutual aid projects that have emerged over the past few months around the city. Volunteers encourage neighbors to donate new, unused food items, books and warm clothing. Connect with them on Twitter @PDXFreeFridge, or on Facebook at PDX Free Fridge.
- **Snack Bloc** started out sharing food in protest spaces, including snacks, water, and basic supplies; now they also collect and deliver aid to indigenous groups, climate fire survivors, and others throughout the region. Donate: [venmo.com/snackbloc](http://venmo.com/snackbloc).
- **Symbiosis Hub & Resource Exchange** is a local chapter of a larger organization agitating for social change but also running a local Hub and Resource Exchange offering groceries, hot meals and more on Tuesdays and Thursdays, noon to 6 p.m. at the Social Justice Action Center. Donate: <https://opencollective.com/symbiosis-pdx>.

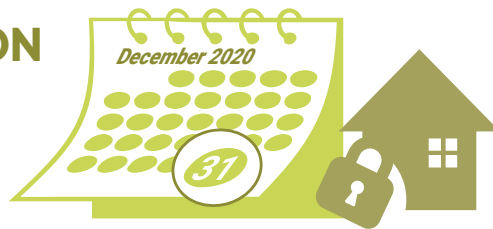


## DECEMBER 31, 2020:

### OREGON STATEWIDE EVICTION MORATORIUM ENDS

#### STATE LAWMAKERS MUST:

- ✓ Extend the eviction moratorium
- ✓ Provide rent assistance that protects both renters and landlords



During the biggest public health crisis of our lifetimes, we've protected people who need help the most. Thanks to the eviction moratorium, all renters have had a place to stay at home and stay safe, to come home to after working on the front lines of the pandemic, and to provide at-home education for their children.

#### Oregon renters—particularly people of color—have been able to hang on to their homes during COVID.

A majority of Black and Latinx Oregonians rent their homes as a result of historic discrimination in housing, barriers to homeownership and economic barriers. Allowing evictions to resume will have a greater impact on communities of color, who have already been disproportionately negatively impacted by the pandemic. Allowing evictions to resume will have a greater impact on communities of color, who have already been disproportionately negatively impacted by the pandemic.

#### The eviction moratorium is working.

The overwhelming majority of Oregon renters have been paying all or part of their rent. Even in the face of astonishing job losses there has not been a new wave of homelessness thanks to the eviction moratorium. We've done a good job in Oregon to prevent a new wave of homeless children, families, and individuals. We must keep going.

#### The best prevention during the pandemic is a safe place to stay.

Oregon's COVID-19 caseloads are spiking at dangerous levels. If we don't extend the moratorium we will force more people into shelters, straining our capacity to keep people safe.

#### OREGONIAN RENTERS WHO OWE BACK RENT:

**56%**  
PEOPLE OF COLOR

**35%**  
OVERALL

#### AVERAGE AMOUNT OF BACK RENT OWED:

**\$1,250 - \$2,700**

## Environmental Overlay Zone Map Correction Project

[www.portland.gov/bps/ezones](http://www.portland.gov/bps/ezones)

**What:** Correcting the location of environmental overlay zones (ezones) to better align with rivers, streams, wetlands, floodplains, forests, steep slopes and wildlife habitat.

**Status:** The Planning and Sustainability Commission held a public hearing on July 28 and received a briefing on September 8. The public hearing is continued to February 23, 2021. Site visits are continuing through the fall with new COVID-19 safety protocols in place.

**Next opportunity to engage:** The public can provide written testimony on the Proposed Draft via the MapApp starting in January 2021. The next public hearing will be on February 23.

**Contact:** [ezone@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:ezone@portlandoregon.gov) or 503-823-4225



# Impact Your City: PDX

By Lisa Loving, NECN

**H**as your commitment to a better world shifted your life over the past year? Looking for a way to get involved with your community that goes beyond social media? Here are 7 ways to engage effectively with your city government, and beyond:

- 1. Go to a meeting.** We may be self-isolating right now, but that doesn't mean we have to let big decisions happen behind closed doors! Those with smartphone or computer access can attend key hearings, meetings and work sessions virtually. Show up online to make sure civic leaders know you're watching. Find the City of Portland's events, with links to participate, at [www.portland.gov/events](http://www.portland.gov/events).
- 2. Scrutinize statistical reports before you weigh in on the issues.** You don't have to have a PhD in urban planning to track the details of what goes on in this town! The City Auditor's Office – also the Multnomah County Auditor, the Metro Auditor, and the Oregon Secretary of State – studies how well bureaus do their job and offers policy suggestions on how they can improve. If there is any issue you feel passionately about, this is a great place to immerse yourself in knowledge. Everything from water treatment to police response times and public art are scrutinized to improve operations. Check the City Auditor's publication list and find out her team's planned focus for the coming year online at [www.portlandoregon.gov/auditservices](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/auditservices).
- 3. Find tools for advocacy.** This might sound wild, but the City of Portland's Office of Community and Civic Life has a trove of links, charts and contact points designed to show local residents and neighbors how to be heard in City Hall!
  - articles and resources on the basics of community organiz-

ing and communicating with elected officials;

- links to submit Freedom of Information Act requests;
- information on how to join one of the many boards and commissions that advise the city on operations.

The Office of Community and Civic Life webpage is at [www.portlandoregon.gov/civic](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/civic)

- 4. Make a public comment on an important issue.** Many if not most important decisions cranked out by city governments involve a process that collects public opinion! Find links to do that here: [www.portland.gov/engage](http://www.portland.gov/engage)
- 5. Watch the City Council meeting live.** If you link podcasts, you'll probably love following the real-life story of our city! On the Council directory page, look for a link to the agenda; follow the meeting along with this document, which lists council items in order of their appearance and has hot links to the documents and handouts for each item. While watching the video, check the agenda item number in the lower right hand corner of the screen. To access the livestream, plug in this link: [www.portlandoregon.gov/28258](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/28258)
- 6. Is development your jam?** Are you deeply fascinated by what's going up and where? Believe it or not, the City of Portland is putting the finishing touches on a construction search tool that will put details in your hands about what you're seeing on the ground. Find the beta version here: [www.portland.gov/construction](http://www.portland.gov/construction)
- 7. Get to know your community in a different way: Mapping.** One of the most fascinating pages on the City of Portland website collects a series of interactive maps allowing the user to drill down into data and track its impact. Fun! <https://www.portland.gov/maps-and-open-data>.

## Empowered Neighborhoods Program

**T**he Empowered Neighborhoods Program will make sure your property meets the building and zoning rules. Apply for assistance with a violation letter now.

### How we will support you

- Problem solve property violation problems/questions with you
- Assist you in making a plan to fix violations
- Work with you until violations are fixed
- Community support to assist with drawing and construction



Black, Indigenous, People of Color and persons with disabilities who got a violation letter in the mail from the City can get assistance from our staff.

### How to Apply

Our team consists of friendly people who will show you how to take the next step for your property needs. Let us know when you are ready to talk about your violation letter and apply online.

We will review your request and contact you within 2 business days.

## Join the Portland Harbor Superfund Site Collaborative Group!



December 2019 Portland Harbor Public Forum (Photo/U.S. EPA)

We are looking to recruit community members for the **Portland Harbor Superfund Site Collaborative Group!** The Site's website can be found at the following address: [www.epa.gov/superfund/portland-harbor](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/portland-harbor)

What is the Collaborative Group and when will they meet? Keep reading for more information on this exciting opportunity to join the multi-party forum that will be kicking off in the **Spring of 2021**.

**WHAT:** The Portland Harbor Superfund Site is about 10 miles of the Lower Willamette River where the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is working with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to address contamination in the sediment, surface water, and groundwater of the river. The Collaborative Group idea was born from Portland-area Community Leaders' vision for how to move the cleanup forward. Community Leaders, EPA, and DEQ have reached consensus to convene an:

***"Inclusive forum for interested and affected parties to share and receive updates, provide feedback, and make individual member recommendations to EPA and DEQ regarding the Site cleanup process for the life of the project."***

**WHO?** Community leaders want to know if you are interested in representing your community or interest group at the Collaborative Group table! They would like to convene a diverse group of individuals with varied interests and perspectives who also want to be involved in the Willamette River cleanup. The Community Leaders are specially looking for individuals with ties to:

- Tribal interests
- Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities
- Civic engagement
- Environmental and conservation
- Environmental justice communities
- Houseless communities
- Impacted neighborhoods (specifically focused within Northeast, North, and Northwest Portland)
- Public health
- Social justice
- Workforce development
- Youth or university groups

**HOW TO JOIN:** If you or someone you know would like to share your community experiences and participate in the Willamette River cleanup process as a Portland Harbor Superfund Site Collaborative Group member, please email Kizz Prusia at [kprusia@triangleassociates.com](mailto:kprusia@triangleassociates.com) or call Annie Kilburg at 503-891-3262 by **January 31, 2021**.

If you are interested in the Collaborative Group but **prefer not to become a member** at this time, you are still invited to attend and observe meetings in a listening role. There will be an opportunity for observers to ask questions at each meeting. Contact Kizz to be added to the email distribution list.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** To review the Collaborative Group's early Draft Charter, visit: <https://bit.ly/3oddY14>



St. Johns Bridge, Portland (Photo/Hunter Young, EPA)

***"The river that runs in the valley makes the valley that holds it. This is the doorway: the valley of the river – Ursula K. Le Guin"***



## NORTH STAR VILLAGE

*Want to be part of an organization that helps neighbors stay in their homes and neighborhoods, as we live healthier and longer lives?*



**Marilyn R**

*“I am a full member of North Star Village who finds it helpful to have a friendly and patient Village volunteer help me with minor computer problems, home tasks and driving. I also work as a volunteer, checking in with members and making people feel welcome.”*

North Star Village is part of a national “thriving as we age” movement. We are one of 11 Villages in the Portland Metro area, each of us serving different neighborhoods. Our purpose is to provide community support and friendships, to help those of us who are living longer stay in our neighborhoods and homes.

The Village provides a variety of activities that help

us stay connected with others. Membership at different levels allows us to choose volunteering, socializing, help at home or a combination. Our Event and Activities Team make us aware of low or no-cost community events that are available as well. Trained and trusted neighbors can pick us up and take us home.

**Dinah and Jim J.**

*“We are social members who also volunteer. We moved to Portland to be near our grandchildren. We were looking for our own social life, so we joined North Star Village. Now we participate in village coffees, book group, dinners and volunteer opportunities to help and meet great people.”*

Many of us say what we like the most about our Village is the relationships we form. Most of us are between 55 and 95 years old and are from all walks of life, and many of us volunteer to support

our Village.

We enjoy helping, sharing, and being active. We are living our lives to the fullest in the company of others doing the same.

**Jim A.**

*“I am a full member. I have given my car away and enjoy the rides volunteer drivers provide to North Star Village events such as monthly dinners and lunches.”*

For those of us who need a little more assistance, we have a fantastic group of trained and trusted volunteers who assist by driving us to and from medical and dental appointments as well as trips to the grocery store, vet, coffees, yoga classes, and appointments of all kinds.

Our volunteers might help rehang the shower curtain that fell down, or install a smoke detector, or help with a little light yard work. Some of us just want someone to occasionally visit us in our home. Many of our member neighbors are also volunteers.

**We need and want volunteers to join us in HELPING EACH OTHER.**  
*Interested in becoming a volunteer and/or member?*  
**We would love to have you join our COMMUNITY!**

North Star Village is a program of Villages NW, a non-profit organization providing support to those of us who are living longer lives. North Star Village started offering services three years ago.

We support our members who live in North - Northeast Portland and surrounding areas. The neighborhoods we serve are listed at the end of this article. Our purpose is to build community and thrive in our own neighborhoods and homes as we continue our lives.

North Star Village has two types of memberships. A Full Membership provides for up to three services a

week and all of our planned activities. A Social Membership provides access to all of our planned activities and one service a month. A Social Member also has a safety net of support in case of an emergency. There is a membership application, interview, and fee required to join North Star Village.

We specifically support the neighborhoods of Cathedral Park, St. Johns, University Park, Portsmouth, Kenton, Hayden Island, Bridgeton, East Columbia, Piedmont, Arbor Lodge, Overlook, Humboldt, Woodlawn, Vernon, King, Sabin, Boise, Elliot, Forest Park, and Linnton.

**CONTACT US: EMAIL [NSVPDX@GMAIL.COM](mailto:NSVPDX@GMAIL.COM) OR CALL 503-793-8518**

*North Star Village does not provide major repair services or medical services of any kind other than transportation to medical appointments.*