

ELIOT NEWS

A Publication of the Eliot Neighborhood Association
Volume 34 · Number 2
Fall 2026

EXTRA FALL CLEANUP ELIOT NEIGHBORHOOD

MAIN SPONSORS:  Metro |  Recology

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
(or until full)

LOCATION: Legacy Emanuel Visitor Parking Lot
Entrance at N Vancouver & N Graham

- ✓ **ACCEPTED**

 - Mattresses & Box Springs
 - Furniture (Couches, Tables, Chairs, Dressers)
 - Small Appliances (Microwaves, Toasters, Vacuums)
 - Treated Lumber & Wood Stumps
- ⊘ **NOT ACCEPTED**

 - Tires
 - Hazardous Waste (Pesticides, Solvents, Batteries) & **ALL PAINT**
 - Freon Appliances (Fridges, AC Units,)
 - Construction Debris
 - Propane Tanks & Pressurized Cylinders
- ✦ **COMMUNITY FREE AREA:** Bring usable household items to place in a designated Free Area to find a new home. Items left at end of day will be discarded.

SUGGESTED DONATIONS:

 **Car Load: \$10**  **Truck: \$20** **Full Truck Load: \$40**

Household items only | Donate via Cash, CashApp, Venmo, or PayPal

How to Follow ENA online & off

By *Allan Rudwick*

Eliot Neighborhood Posts go to Facebook, our email list, Bluesky, and NextDoor. Do you have another site you would like us to cross-post to? Are there any topics you want us to cover more? As always feel free to reach out at info@eliotneighborhood.org with suggestions.

To join our our email list: you can join this by clicking on the lower left corner of our website or email us.

We also have an Instagram - thanks to Brittany for running it!

We are on Slack - want more 2-way communication with neighbors? We can invite you to chat in our non-profitier Slack workspace. This is a great way to help coordinate activities and more! Reach out to

info@eliotneighborhood.org for an invitation to join.

We also have events in the neighborhood from time to time, like our upcoming Dumpster Day.

You are welcome to drop in to any ENA meeting - we rarely have a 'Board Only' meeting. These meetings are a great chance to tell us about your exciting event, help wrangle some volunteers or excitement for a group you are starting up or so much more.

We meet at the Cascadia Garlington Center off of MLK and Morris Street the 3rd Monday of the month (4th if there is a holiday).

You are welcome to ask to add things to our agendas by emailing info@eliotneighborhood.org.



Welcome from the Eliot Neighborhood Association Board!

Dear Neighbors,

Welcome to the latest edition of the Eliot News! As your neighborhood association board, we are thrilled to connect with you through this update and share a small slice of what's happening in our vibrant community.

In this issue, you will find Q&As from candidates running to represent our district on the Board of County Commissioners, information about organizations and businesses operating in Eliot, and details about the upcoming annual general meeting. On that last item, we hope that you will join us at 7pm on Monday, October 19 at the Garlington Center to voice your

thoughts and concerns about our shared neighborhood.

Our strength as a neighborhood comes from all of you. We encourage everyone to stay informed, get involved, and reach out with your ideas or feedback. Together, we can make Eliot an even better place to call home.

Thank you for being a vital part of our community.

Warmly

Laura Fay and Allan Rudwick

co-Chairs, Eliot NA

Eliot Neighborhood Meeting Monday October 19th at 7pm, In Person Cascadia's Garlington Center, MLK and Morris

- ⇒ **Share your ideas and talents and see where you can help us to give back to the community**
- ⇒ **All residents and business employees in Eliot can participate in bringing issues to the discussion**
- ⇒ **Meeting Etiquette: Arrive on time & prepared, Stay on topic, Treat others with respect, Raise your hand**

We hope to see you there!

3036 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
(Enter from Parking Side)

Eliot Neighborhood Gives out Two Block Party Grants

By *Allan Rudwick*

The Eliot Neighborhood Association has a grant program that allows residents to get up to \$100 if they are hosting a block party. There are only minimal requirements for this program, we just want to help you have a successful event!

into the street. You will meet people you wished you had said "Hi" to months ago, and you will fill more secure on your own block.

If you are even remotely interested in this opportunity, please reach out to info@eliotneighborhood.org to learn more.

Block parties are an almost magical way to get your neighbors out of their houses

Two block party groups already took advantage of this \$100 and you can too!

High-density Zoning and the Housing Crisis

By Mike Warwick

What Housing Crisis?

The “housing crisis” has been a hot media topic for years; however, evidence of an actual “housing” crisis is lacking. The most recent Point-in-Time estimate of the homeless population reported a national rate of 22 per 10,000 people, or less than 1%. In simple terms, over 99% of us ARE housed. Therefore, the housing crisis isn’t so much an issue of people being literally without shelter; it’s accurate to characterize this as an “affordability” crisis, and that is really a “choice” crisis. People complaining about their housing are generally focused on finding housing they want, in locations they prefer, at a price they can afford. This is an important distinction because it bears directly on potential solutions.

Economists draw a distinction between “needs” (which housing is) and “wants,” which is what complaints about housing cost, variety, and location are. In other words, the “crisis” is less about the need to build “more,” but the need to build the kinds of homes people want in locations they prefer for an “affordable” price. At its root, this is more of an economic challenge rather than a government policy one. Unfortunately, most political “solutions” are to “build more” without appreciation for customer “wants,” other than cheaper. This approach ignores the real workings of housing economics and housing markets and has, and is, leading to abuse of neighborhoods impacted by zone changes.

A “market” is where consumer demands are met with supply. Building more high-rise apartments may reduce housing costs by providing small

apartments for less than a home mortgage; however, it won’t satisfy the demand for “family” homes. That is the real problem, one that more small apartments won’t solve. Unfortunately, current housing proposals simply repeat the same mistakes that got us here, specifically, using zoning/regulation to guide what is a highly competitive housing market into a single product; specifically medium- to high-rise apartment blocks. Markets respond poorly to socialist solutions because people want choice. Consequently, conventional zoning practices can’t “solve” a market problem.

Lessons from Portland’s “Smart Growth” strategy

To recap the previous article, zoning is the practice of limiting development to specific areas/properties. It has been used historically to limit buildings and uses existing neighbors do not want. Zoning can also be used to “encourage” certain kinds of development, which is the approach the City of Portland pursued in its lauded Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan) processes (there have been multiple). Because it is an administrative mechanism, it requires political support, which invites civic leaders to turn to zoning to address problems zoning is poorly suited to address, including the current housing and affordability crises.

Portland’s comp plans envisioned multi-story apartments would be built in close-in neighborhoods along major transportation corridors with commercial development at “nodes” where those streets intersected. This was and is a laudable goal, which was supported by most neighborhoods at the time. To accomplish this goal existing low-density zones that didn’t

support 4-6 story apartment blocks were “up zoned” to enable their development. Similarly, properties along transit corridors and at nodes, were zoned to allow a wider range of commercial uses as well as taller structures.

The Plan played out as intended by City planners. Hundreds of new apartment units replaced scores of single-family homes and under-developed commercial land. It also required demolition of existing homes and displacement of current residents. This reduced the number of single-family homes (lost to new apartments), especially ones that were affordable to each area’s residents. The comp plan had no provision to replace these homes or to compensate owners for their lost wealth. That is Portland’s housing policies greatest weakness as well as the fatal flaw in zoning as a “solution” to the housing crisis. Redevelopment plans should have been accompanied by policies to replace the housing options they removed, including financial compensation for replacement housing. As the previous article explained, up-zoning created market forces that devalued existing uses, displacing long-time residents and businesses and destroying historic properties and unique communities, including Portland’s black community.

Portland’s comp plans expected shopping and employment options would develop at designated nodes to support the needs of residents in the new apartment blocks. This idealistic vision was challenged by the realities of real estate markets and, recently, by the social transformations caused by the pandemic.

The real estate market challenge was inherent in the scope of the comp plan.

Planners envisioned the adoption of their residential corridor/commercial node model throughout the plan area and changed zoning accordingly. The comp plan area expanded from close-in neighborhoods to nearly the entire city. A huge area. Changing zoning for such a large area created a glut, or surplus, of new development opportunities across the plan area. In other words, a developer of a 5-6 story apartment building could build it on rezoned land anywhere. Naturally, developers looked for the least costly sites to develop, leading to the diffusion of apartment blocks across the city rather than their concentration along a few, close in corridors as planners envisioned. Unfortunately, if a corridor is not densely developed, there is insufficient demand for commercial services at nearby nodes making the new housing blocks less attractive to tenants, especially long-term tenants that are essential for family formation vital to a city’s future. This is evident in Portland’s recent census data, which shows a population that is essentially aging in place and young families leaving for homes and opportunities outside the city.

Another consequence of Portland’s planning policies is a “sameness” of new developments. Mid- and high-rise apartment buildings present trade-offs between construction costs and height. Above a certain height the building may require one or more elevators, multiple stairways and hallways, fire suppression systems, outdoor spaces, and tenant amenities. It is more cost effective to spread these expenses over many units resulting in taller, blockier buildings – up to the maximum allowed height/building area. Consequently, the resulting apartment blocks look alike with apartments of similar size and configuration (doors off hallways, limited window area, and often odd layouts due to support pillars). Although

(Zoning continued from p2)

“more housing” is developed, it is all the same product. There is effectively no “choice” except location.

The limited choice for tenants is bad enough, worse, these types of buildings appeal to a specific investment class; largely corporate with few based in Portland. As a result, tenants must deal with distant corporate owners, rigid policies, and rent increases to the maximum allowed. Rents driven by algorithms and/or corporate revenue goals make saving for a home purchase harder for these renters every year.

Portland’s leaders have responded to tenant complaints with regulations that have made the renter’s experience increasingly legalistic and ever less personal, leading to the demise of local and “mom and pop” landlords that once provided more than 60% of Portland’s rental housing.

What should have been done differently? Can Portland recover from its planner’s mistakes? Can the Council avoid making the same mistakes again, which it appears to be considering? Those are the topics for the next article.

Jinju Patisserie is coming to Eliot!

By Kirsten Sessions

Jinju is staging a highly anticipated comeback in Portland after briefly closing its doors. The James Beard Award-winning bakery is preparing to reopen a new location at 3494 N Williams (the former Harder Day Coffee Co space, across from New Seasons) by early October 2026.

At the new location they will focus on various croissants, Asian-style baked goods such as salt breads, shokupan products including sandwiches, French-Asian inspired desserts, confections/chocolate, and extensive

espresso and Matcha beverages.

They will also offer gift certificates on their website if the community would like to support them that way. Sales of the gift certificate sales will fund construction costs and equipment purchases.

If you are not familiar with Jinju Patisserie, they were so popular at their last location, that people would line up around the block before they opened and until they sold out or closed.

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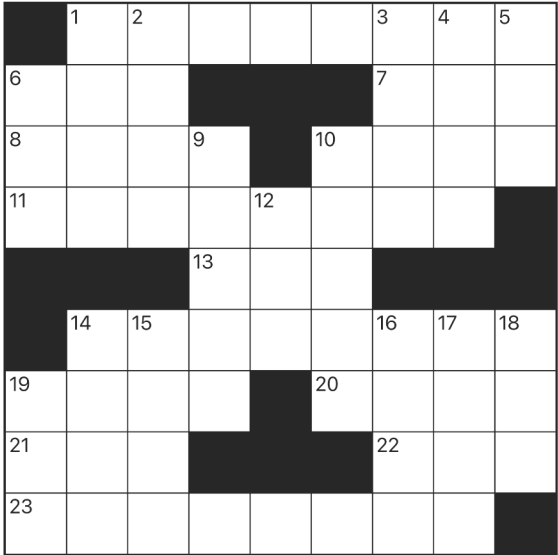
Andrew Champion

Across

- 1 Eliot’s southern boundary
- 6 Kung ___ chicken
- 7 It’s the place with the helpful hardware folks
- 8 Pirate’s quaff
- 10 A small cut with scissors
- 11 Like parking meters near Moda Center during a Blazers game
- 13 A female deer
- 14 How now?
- 19 Not sloppy
- 20 Corsican currency
- 21 US telecommunications giant
- 22 *gasp* a mouse!
- 23 Unsubstantiated

Down

- 1 Outbuilding on a farm
- 2 It usually gets shingles
- 3 Decrease



- 4 You may (or may not) mean to trip while handling it
- 5 “Definitely”
- 6 West side counterpart to Pacific Power
- 9 Unlike the Iceman, he never cameth
- 10 Subdivision of an act
- 12 Ironically, this answer is entered in a column
- 14 Greek letter after alpha
- 15 Laboratory rodents
- 16 Signals
- 17 Raw materials for making metal
- 18 Stir-fry cooking pan
- 19 To catch, as in a thief

Meyer Memorial Trust

Accelerating justice in Oregon

Meyer Memorial Trust, proudly based in the Albina neighborhood, accellerates racial, social and economic justice for the collective well-being of Oregon’s lands and peoples.

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Eliot Neighborhood Association

The Eliot Neighborhood Association represents a geographic area of the city between the Willamette River, NE 7th, Fremont and Broadway. We want everyone to feel welcome on the streets, parks, schools, homes and businesses in Eliot. That includes those that live in the area now, those that have been displaced from the area and those that are merely visiting.

The Eliot Neighborhood Association is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization whose members are the residents and business owners of the Eliot Neighborhood. Its purpose is to inform Eliot residents about issues affecting the neighborhood through meetings, newsletters and other activities. Members of the neighborhood association must be over 14 years old and live, own property, have a business, or represent a nonprofit within the neighborhood. The Eliot Neighborhood Association was founded in 1969. It is recognized by the City of Portland, is a member of the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods, Inc., and its members represent Eliot on other committees.

Eliot Neighborhood Association Board

- Co-Chair - Allan Rudwick - arudwick@gmail.com 503-703-3910
- Co-Chair - Laura Fay - chair@eliotneighbrohood.org
- Recorder - Andrew Champion - recorder@eliotneighborhood.org
- Treasurer - Jennifer Wilcox - treasurer@eliotneighborhood.org
- Website Editor & Outreach - Serena Li - serena@eliotneighborhood.org
- Community Outreach - Cassie Muilenburg - cassie@eliotneighborhood.org
- Community Outreach - Jimmy Wilson - jwilsonassoc@yahoo.com
- Interim Newsletter Editor - Allan Rudwick - news@eliotneighborhood.org
- Vice Treasurer - Kathryn LePore
- At Large - Anders Hart, Ann Kasper, Serena Li, Pat Montgomery, Alice Newman, Bliss Suh, Alyssa Whitesides Jimmy Wilson

Land Use and Transportation Committee

- LUTC Chair - Anders Hart - lutcchair@eliotneighborhood.org
- LUTC Vice Chair - Andrew Champion
- Recorder - Allan Rudwick
- At Large Member - Mike Warwick

Committees:

- NECN Rep - Jimmy Wilson

Eliot Neighborhood Monthly Meetings

Meetings of the Eliot Neighborhood Association are held on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 pm (delayed a week for holidays on occasion). Meetings are in person Cascadia Garlington Center on NE Morris Street at MLK, check agenda online for information at https://eliotneighborhood.org/category/meeting-agenda/). Meetings are an opportunity to meet your neighbors, stay informed, help build a stronger community, and have input into city decisions that may effect you.

Neighborhood Meetings - In Person Third Monday of the Month, 7:00-8:30pm

Land Use Meetings - Second Wednesday of the month 6:00 pm

For agendas and more information, see www.eliotneighborhood.org

Eliot News

The *Eliot News* is published occasionally by the Eliot Neighborhood Association. It is mailed free of charge to every address in the neighborhood.

- Editor and Layout - Allan Rudwick - news@eliotneighborhood.org

Rights to articles are retained by the author. Opinions of the authors do not necessarily reflect the official positions of the Eliot Neighborhood Association.

Letters to the editor, articles, suggestions or comments: news@eliotneighborhood.org

ELIOT NEWS AD RATES

The *Eliot News* has a circulation of about 3,850 and is mailed quarterly to all of the homes and businesses in the Eliot neighborhood.

Ad deadlines are March 1, June 1, September 1, December 1

Category	Size	1x	2x	3x	4x
1/16 Page	4.9” W x 1.8” H	\$42	\$76	\$104	\$126
1/8 Page	4.9” W x 3.8” H	\$84	\$152	\$208	\$252
1/4 Page	4.9” W x 7.8” H	\$168	\$305	\$416	\$504
1/2 Page	10” W x 7.8” H	\$355	\$645	\$880	\$1,067
Full Page	10” W x 15.8” H	\$710	\$1,291	\$1,760	\$2,134

Sign up for email updates on our Website! www.eliotneighbrohood.org

2

3

Candidate Questionnaires - Multnomah County

Tony Robertson

1. Tell us about yourself (50 words)

From neighborhood schools and local ballfields to years of public service, coaching, investing, and small business ownership, my roots run deep in District 2. I bring a neighbor’s care, a coach’s steady encouragement, and a deep belief that public service should be personal, practical, and rooted in listening.

2. What is your political affiliation? Who are you closest to politically on the current Board of County Commissioners? (100 words)

Democrat. As a new face in the political world, I don’t have close relationships with existing County Commissioners. Commissioner Dixon is related to a friend of mine and I have family that went to church with him. I look forward to building relationships with new colleagues, if elected.

3. What's the biggest challenge facing District 2? (100 words)

One of my top campaign priorities is to use my experience gathering people together to be a bridge-builder between jurisdictions to leverage resources and expertise. The biggest challenge facing District 2 right now is a lack of collaborative leadership. Jurisdictions have erected silos in favor of political favoritism and show which has hampered our ability to govern in partnership with other jurisdictions. This is undermining all the other issues we’re facing in the County. In an environment where resources are tight, leveraging dollars and services will be critical to prevent massive programmatic cuts.

4. What is your position about using public money to renovate the Moda center?

As with many developments in various sectors, public dollars will be required to help renovate the Moda Center. The key is ensuring that the deal at which parties arrive is genuinely mutually beneficial to all stakeholders. The deal shouldn’t slant one way or another. Again, this goes back to bridge-building and leveraging resources. Moda Center could be one of many economic engines in our toolbox to help restore our economy, but not if taxpayer dollars or programming is gutted to their detriment causing externalities elsewhere.

Bri Williams

1. Tell us about yourself — 50 words

I’m Bri Williams, a lifelong District 2 resident, community advocate, social worker, and mother. My family’s roots started in Vanport. My mother Nikki Williams' story is covered in the local documentary Priced Out. I currently serve Multnomah County families as a mental health consultant, and I’m running for County Commissioner to build a community, where we’re all able to thrive.

2. What is your political affiliation? Who are you closest to politically on the current Board of County Commissioners? — 100 words

I’m a Democrat, and I believe government should work for working people, families, renters, homeowners, children, and historically underserved communities. I have a good working relationship with all of the commissioners, but I’m closest politically to current District 2 Commissioner Shannon Singleton. I’m honored to have her support and mentorship in this race. Like Shannon, I



5. Do you support Pre-School For All as it is currently structured? What changes, if any, would you make?

I believe that Preschool for All is another subtle economic backbone that many don’t realize. Early childhood education and childcare are so important for working families. At the same time, we haven’t gone a good job stewarding the resources in a way that is helpful to the program. Preschools have closed as a result of the implementation of Preschool for All due to lack of resources and lack of skill, yet at the same time, we have a surplus of dollars. One thing to do differently there, immediately, is to invest in technical assistance for Preschools. Additionally, the process for building or starting preschools has pushed many genuine providers away due to capital construction limitations and requirements. While we have to ensure people aren’t taking advantage of taxpayer money, those regulations shouldn’t push genuine providers out of the market to the detriment of the program. I also believe we need to explore different types of preschools offered for different types of workers.

6. What's your favorite spot/business/organization in Eliot? (100 words)

- Lillis Albina Park
- Urban League of Portland
- Influential Barbershop
- Matt Dishman Community Center
- Dawson Park

believe District 2 deserves a strong advocate who understands our community and is committed to making county government more responsive, accessible, and accountable. I’m running because I know this district personally, and I want to help protect the communities, families, and institutions that made me who I am.

3. What’s the biggest challenge facing District 2? — 100 words

District 2 is facing a growing affordability and displacement crisis. Too many residents are struggling with housing costs, while the neighborhood institutions, businesses, and community spaces that made North and Northeast Portland home are disappearing. We need to invest in housing stability, behavioral health, childcare, small businesses, and the public spaces that keep communities connected. I want District 2 residents to be able to stay, thrive, and build a future here. As someone who grew up here, I know what we stand to lose when families can no longer afford to remain in the communities they helped build.

4. What is your position about using

Serena Cruz

1. Tell us about yourself (50 words)

I'm Serena Cruz. I lived in Eliot 9 out of my 30 years in North/Northeast Portland. My daughter was born down the street at Emanuel. I served two terms as County Commissioner, later 3 years as Chief Operating Officer. I know how to make the County work for you.

2. What is your political affiliation? Who are you closest to politically on the current Board of County Commissioners? (100 words)

I'm a registered Democrat. The values I bring: support for working families, support for small businesses, social justice and equity, and a real focus on solving problems that look intractable, sit squarely within that tradition. Of the current Board, I'm proud to have earned the endorsement of Commissioner Meghan Moyer, and I share her practical, results-focused approach to governing. I have good relationships with everyone else on the Board. I'm looking forward to helping build a culture of mutual respect and genuine problem-solving there, because that's how District 2 actually gets what it needs.

3. What's the biggest challenge facing District 2? (100 words)

District 2's biggest challenge is gentrification and displacement in inner North and Northeast Portland, the historic heart of Portland's Black community. Decades of disinvestment, followed by rapid redevelopment, pushed out a majority of the neighborhood's Black residents, and surging home values and rents keep pricing out the legacy families who

public money to renovate the Moda Center? I do not support using public money to renovate the Moda Center, especially when Multnomah County is facing significant budget challenges and our communities are experiencing cuts to essential services. I work for the County and have seen firsthand how these cuts affect families and workers. Public dollars should prioritize housing stability, behavioral health, childcare, public safety, and the services people rely on every day. I also stand with my union, AFSCME Local 88 workers who have raised serious concerns about this proposal. We should be investing in people and communities before subsidizing a professional sports facility.

5. Do you support Preschool for All as it is currently structured? What changes, if any, would you make?

As a former Albina Headstart student myself, I strongly support Preschool for All and believe universal access to preschool is an important investment in children, families, and our communities. We also have to be honest about where the program can improve. When I worked as Preschool for All's first culturally specific mental health consultant, I saw a significant need for stronger inclusion supports. Many children needed additional or unique supports, while the capacity to meet those needs was stretched thin. I was one of only three consultants serving the entire county, and MECP was stretched as well. As commissioner, I would advocate for more equitable and adequately resourced inclusion supports, so every child, not just those whose needs are easiest to accommodate, can fully participate and flourish. Universal preschool has to mean universal access,

remain. Eliot is home for Albina Vision Trust’s restorative redevelopment on ground fractured by Memorial Coliseum, I-5, and the Emanuel Hospital expansion. This project matters because their vision for a rebuilt Albina is our best shot at repair. As commissioner, I'll fight to make it real.

4. What is your position about using public money to renovate the Moda Center?

I support public investment in the Moda Center renovation. I want the Blazers and the Fire to stay in Portland for the long term, and this arena hosts teams that are part of our region's identity. I don't support a blank check. Any county dollars should come with a community benefits agreement that names Albina Vision Trust as a partner. It should have a strong project labor agreement to provide local family wage jobs and a labor harmony agreement to support the venue’s workers long term. I also want the Blazers to commit to Portland for at least twenty

years, make a payment in lieu of taxes since the arena is off the tax rolls, and release their economic analysis and full renovation plan before any county vote.

5. Do you support Pre-School For All as it is currently structured? What changes, if any, would you make?

I strongly support Preschool for All and what it's building: high-quality preschool for every child in the county. I support the goal of universal preschool; age eligibility should remain the same as the voters approved: three- and four-year-olds. Third, the tax rate: it needs to stay tied to real, updated enrollment and demographic data, not old projections, so we always know if



including for children with disabilities and children who need additional behavioral, developmental, or culturally responsive support.

6. What’s your favorite spot/business/organization in Eliot? — 100 words

It’s hard to choose just one because so much of Eliot is part of my story. Matt Dishman Community Center will always hold a special place in my heart. Many of my summers were spent there swimming and drinking slushies, and my aunt, Mariah Taylor, still swims there today. I also love stopping by ZAPP for great Thai food, and Moberi for an açai bowl. Growing up, I remember picking plums in the alley off Ivy st, riding my bike down Mississippi Ave, and visiting the Wonder Bread store before it became New Seasons. Many of the places I grew up with are gone, which makes preserving Eliot’s community even more important to me.

The Eliot Board sent out questionnaires to all the candidates for our Multnomah County District 2 Commissioner. Some candidates responded. Here are their unedited responses. Wordcounts were not enforced

it's under or overfunded. Fourth, indexing: before I take a position on indexing the income subject to the tax, I want to understand the impacts on both program funding and Multnomah County taxpayers.

6. What's your favorite spot/business/organization in Eliot? (100 words)

I'm excited for Colibri by Tamale Boy to open on N Williams. I've been a fan of Jaime Soltero Jr. and his Tamale Boy restaurants for years. I would be remiss if I didn't mention Ox because, even though I moved from Eliot to Sabin, I still don't need to cross town for a special night out with friends or family, or to celebrate a birthday. I also regularly head to Eliot to go to the amazing Multnomah County Albina Branch Library as well as the Dishman Pool to swim laps and go to an occasional water aerobics class.



Nathan Ong Norris

1. Tell us about yourself (50 words)

I’m a third generation Asian-American, a union member, and a community organizer. My parents raised my sister and I in Portland on one income. Now, working families struggle to get by on two or three incomes. I have worked as a carpenter, hazardous waste technician, stagehand, prep cook, and technical director.

After college, I moved to the South where I lived for six years. Living through several hurricane seasons, some of which we hunkered down for and some of which we evacuated for, taught me the importance of a culture of resilience.

In 2022, I returned to Portland and got a Master’s Degree in Emergency Management & Community Resilience from PSU. Now, I live in Kenton with my wife and our dog Lana, and our cat Pimm.

2. What is your political affiliation? Who are you closest to politically on the current Board of County Commissioners? (100 words)

I am a member of the Democratic Socialist of America (DSA). I am the elected Co-Chair of the Portland DSA's Resilience Working Group. In the face of rising authoritarianism, climate change, and increasing economic inequality I care about collective survival and collective liberation. I believe that the way out from these worsening conditions include:

- municipal socialism not privatization
- embracing and expanding public goods and services

Commissioner Singleton is my closest ally on the issues of housing, homelessness, and community benefits agreements. Commissioner Moyer is my closest ally on protecting the LGBTQ+ community and ensuring county services – including our emergency management plans – are accessible to people with disabilities. Singleton and Moyer are also my closest allies on fully funding universal preschool in Multnomah County.

Despite annual climate emergencies, including the deadly heat dome in 2020, three commissioners proposed devastating budget cuts to the Office of Sustainability. Community organizations and activists were able to forestall those cuts, but the Office needs a Commissioner that will champion its work and programs at the dais. I am running to be that commissioner.

3. What's the biggest challenge facing District 2? (100 words)

Chemical storage, industrial hazards. We're a vibrant, exciting, fun place to be, stuck between the fossils and ghosts of industries that were built without regard to the harm they would cause the world and communities.

How can we hope to live our whole lives, and raise our children, and watch our children live their whole lives, while we're sandwiched between virtually unregulated industrial districts, oil trains, an airport, a billionaire's hobby project, and without meaningful prospects of our own? That's why I am focused on implementing the Climate Justice Plan, mitigating the immediate risks of CEI Hub while preventing further expansion of oil and gas containment in our neighborhoods, community resilience and adaptive capacities.



4. What is your position about using public money to renovate the Moda center?

I’ve worked in the Moda Center as a stagehand on the IATSE 28 call list. I know the Moda Center needs renovations, I remember clearly having major tours pass us by because our arena wasn’t up to standard. Yet it is foolish to commit so much public money with so few promises. There is such a thing as a good public arena deal, but that is not what we’re getting.

A billionaire, with the help of corporate democrats, pushed a bad deal on the city. It was obviously an attempt to foist the cost of renovation onto the city. Now we are facing massive diversion of tax payer dollars, from the state, the city, and the county, to fix an arena which we have little to no promise will benefit our community nearly as much as we’ve paid for it.

5. Do you support Pre-School For All as it is currently structured? What changes, if any, would you make?

I support fully funding Preschool For All. I am focused on ensuring that teachers earn a living wage that allows them to remain in the work, and allows our program to grow and thrive. I support more Preschool for All sites unionizing.

I also genuinely hold the value of universal, and I insist that we keep that promise. Closing the last gaps, and reaching our hardest to reach residents, is going to be difficult. It is also worth doing, because we have made this commitment to those kids, and to ourselves, because early childhood education is one of the best ways we can spend our money to improve our society. It is an advantage and a benefit that every child in Multnomah County should have.

6. What's your favorite spot/business/organization in Eliot? (100 words)

The Matt Dishman Community Center! It’s a fantastic public resource, with free drop in classes, a pool, a weight room, friendly staff, and lots of great programs. If you’ve ever wished your gym was run like a library, Matt Dishman is for you.

The Garden Tavern and Cartside Food Carts. Especially the Shawarma Truck, which serves the exact right mix of fresh greens and greasy food that keeps me on my feet for a long work day.

Honorable mention to The Waypost, which still hosts some of the tiny indy bands that make Portland weird, fun, and charming. I’ve spent plenty of nights on the picnic table outside, trying to guess what the next song in the set would be while sipping decently priced cocktail specials



Bricks Need Mortar

By Laura Fay

Mortar substack.

Sarah Shaoul has been an Eliot resident for over 30 years, raising her family, operating brick and mortar small businesses and now advocating for them through the organization, Bricks Need Mortar. The organization was founded in 2020 to support brick and mortar small businesses impacted by mandated COVID closures and continues to support them through current economic headwinds. In 2025 Bricks Need Mortar championed HB2125 to provide relief to small businesses and their employees facing closure due to extreme weather events. Bricks Need Mortar continues to advocate for smart policy particularly around how to best address commercial vacancies and how to improve conditions for small businesses to thrive and contribute to the communities where they operate. You can learn more on the Bricks Need

Bricks Need Mortar operates Small Shops Big Hearts, a directory of over 800 small businesses and an active social media tasked with amplifying the diverse, unique, and vibrant small businesses that define Portland’s culture. Small Shops Big Hearts partners with Unitus Community Credit Union on monthly giveaways increasing awareness of neighborhood businesses and thought the holidays to promote shopping local with fun and inspiring giveaways happening every other day through the holiday season. Bricks Need Mortar also works with Travel Portland and other partners to encourage visitors and locals alike to choose local and pay no sales tax. Keep an eye on their Small Shops Big Hearts instagram for chances to win prizes and most importantly for reminders of how small businesses make Portland better for us all.



Event information may be out of date. Confirm details with event organizers.

Community Events

Eliot Neighborhood Association Meeting
Cascadia Garlington Center
(for virtual meeting info see agenda at <https://eliotneighborhood.org/category/meeting-agenda/>)
7:00pm 3rd Monday of each month

Land Use and Transportation Committee (LUTC) Meeting
6:00pm, 2nd Wednesday of each month (cancelled about 50% of the time, contact lutcchair@eliotneighborhood.org)
<https://eliotneighborhood.org/category/next-lutc-agenda/>

Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods
4815 NE 7th Ave
www.necoalition.org, 503.388.5004

Meetings:
♦ *NECN Board Meetings*—6:30pm, 3rd Tuesday of the month

Strong Towns PDX - District 2
♦ *Monthly Happy Hour - 1st Monday of the Month- 5:30pm at the Radio Room - 1101 NE Alberta*

Did we miss something?
Email news@eliotneighborhood.org to submit something for the next edition

Entertainment

Civilian Studios
2210 N Lewis Ave 503-476-2716

Fisk Gallery
3613 NE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd
Wednesday-Friday 12-6
Saturday and Sunday 12-4
fiskgallery.com 661-733-3521

Open Signal
2766 NE MLK Jr Blvd
opensignalpdx.org 503-288-1515

PICA
15 NE Hancock St
Pica.org 503-242-1419
website for details: shows &exhibits

Union Knott Gallery
2808 NE MLK Jr Blvd, #2
971-207-1231 By Appointment

The Waypost
3120 N Williams Ave
thewaypost.com 503-367-3182

White Eagle
836 N Russell St 503-282-6810
mcmenamins.com/WhiteEagle

Wonder Ballroom
128 NE Russell St
wonderballroom.com 503-284-8686

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Community Accupuncture in the Eliot Neighborhood

By Kelly Baucum, LAc

Let me introduce myself: A new community acupuncture clinic has opened in the Eliot neighborhood. Gather Community Acupuncture is owned and operated by me, Kelly Baucum. I graduated from National University of Natural Medicine in 2015 and have been practicing acupuncture ever since. I have interned at many community clinics in the Portland area, ran my own private practice in Portland for 7 years, then left Portland to work at community clinics in Wailuku, Hawaii and Seattle, WA. From these experiences, I fell in love with the model of community acupuncture and returned to my beloved town of Portland to open my own clinic.

What is community acupuncture? Community acupuncture is a way to offer acupuncture to as many members of the community as possible by keeping costs low and access to treatment high. Private (one-on-one) acupuncture fees often mean price people out completely or they cannot get as many treatments as they may need. In the community acupuncture model, we keep the prices very low so that all are able to receive acupuncture without the financial barrier. To keep the prices low, we offer acupuncture in a group setting, treating up to 3 people per hour.

What are the benefits of community acupuncture? As mentioned, the major benefit is access to care. With community acupuncture, the affordable rate allows as many treatments as your

condition requires. If you have a strained back and need to be treated a few times in a week, we can accommodate that without breaking the bank. Community acupuncture also has more available treatment times in a day. Since we see people roughly every 20 minutes, you can usually get in the same day. Finally, community acupuncture can be a powerful shared experience. By sharing a healing space with your community, you become part of a calm, relaxing environment that fosters a human connection missing in many modern interactions. Community is care.

What does Gather CA offer? At Gather Community Acupuncture, we offer acupuncture treatments on a sliding scale: new patients pay \$50-80 and return patients pay \$35-65. All patients can choose whatever amount they want on that scale with no questions asked and no income verification required. We also offer an Acu-Plus option where you can receive an acupuncture treatment PLUS one more modality - massage, cupping, gua sha, herbal medicine, or moxibustion - for \$70-90 sliding scale.

As the world of healthcare is rapidly changing around us, we can all adapt to new models that work for our community. If you are interested in experiencing community acupuncture or have any questions, feel free to check out our website at <https://gathercommunityacupuncture.com>.

Learn more at opensignalpdx.org/rentals

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