

Brooklyn

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

January / February 2026

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Brooklyn Action Corps (BAC): Neighborhood Visioning

Calling all community members! Please join us at the January 28, 2026 BAC General Meeting to participate in **Neighborhood Visioning**! The meeting will be held in the Sacred Heart Villa Activity Room; use the corner entrance at 3925 SE Milwaukie Ave.

The Brooklyn community stays connected via BAC, which is our neighborhood organization. BAC amplifies our collective power to positively impact Brooklyn and advocate for our community-at-large. Events, such as the Ice Cream Social and neighborhood clean-ups, allow us to connect and strengthen our community. The various committees allow our community members to engage in what they are passionate about, whether it be mutual aid with the Brooklyn Climate Action Team, land use and transportation with Brooklyn Land Use and Transportation Committee, working in the community garden, or socializing with our Community Connections Committee (CCC). Neighborhood visioning helps us all realize our vision of the neighborhood, and to find a path towards realizing that vision. Please join us at the Neighborhood Visioning meeting.

Friends of Brooklyn Park (FOBP)

FOBP coordinates and fundraises year-round to put on the Summer Youth Program at Brooklyn City Park, which provides free activities and entertainment for neighborhood families. We're kicking off our main planning season in the new year and would love your input!

Join FOBP us at our monthly Board meetings for general updates, at our January Visioning meeting where we'll take a bigger look at the whole year, our spring auction, and plans for the Summer Youth Program; or stop by the park on Valentine's Day for our next Bottle Drop fundraiser! For more details on these events, FOBP, visit at www.friendsofbrooklynpark.org:



Please save the dates and join us:

- January 13th Board meeting at Rose City Coffee (5:30pm-6:30pm)
- January 20th Visioning Meeting at Brooklyn Caretta (6:30pm-7:30pm)
- February 10th Board meeting at Rose City Coffee (5:30pm-6:30pm)
- February 14th Valentine Bottle Drop at Brooklyn Park (10am-12pm)

Did You Notice?

Although Groceries 4 Grout is just outside the neighborhood, those few blocks can't stop Brooklynites from supporting this free food pantry. For years, neighbors have been donating, and supporting this pop-up food pantry that partners with the Oregon Food Bank.

Grocery 4 Grout is a free food pantry that generally sets up every Friday from 12 pm until 1 pm in the parking lot at 4028 SE 34th Ave (hosted by the Kenilworth Presbyterian Church).

Bringing your own grocery bags is encouraged. If you need food assistance, or if you have capacity to donate or support, please stop by!

The Oregon Food Bank's mission is to eliminate hunger and its root causes. For more information and other resources, please visit Oregon Food Bank website:



New apparel! This exclusive merch celebrates Brooklyn's apple orchard history with a unique apple blossom. Order online: <https://BACMerch.printful.me>



Brooklyn Action Committee (BAC) Meetings

BAC meetings are held in the **Sacred Heart Villa Activity Room** located at **3925 SE Milwaukie Avenue** (virtual options available), and there are two types of public meetings. General meetings occur bi-monthly on the 4th Wednesday; Board meetings occur monthly on the 2nd Wednesday.

Brooklyn Land Use and Transportation Committee (BLUTC)

BLUTC generally meets the first Wednesday of every month. BLUTC remains focused on neighborhood pedestrian safety concerns, river access, affordable housing, and more.

Brooklyn Climate Action Team (BCAT)

Meetings generally occur the second and fourth Thursday every month. BCAT is organizing a group session for the online **Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET)** course starting **Jan. 22**. Brooklyn doesn't have a NET team yet—let's change that. We'll meet for accountability, and prepare for the required in-person training together.

What is NET?

In the event of a citywide or regional emergency such as a severe winter storm, flood, or major earthquake, households need to be prepared to be on their own for at least a week. Neighborhoods need to be prepared for self-sufficiency, too. Volunteer neighborhood rescuers will likely be first on-the-scene when firefighters and police are slowed by impassable streets or overwhelmed by calls for help.

Neighborhood Emergency Teams (NETs) are Portland residents trained by Portland Bureau of Emergency Management and Portland Fire & Rescue to provide emergency planning and assistance within their own neighborhoods. NET members are trained to save lives and property until professional responders can arrive. These volunteers are specially trained to help others without putting themselves in harm's way. Let's create Brooklyn's NET.

CCC Presents: Brooklyn Movie night - The Big Lebowski

Brooklyn Movie Night is back, man! Join neighbors on February 5th at the historic Aladdin Theater for a night of Lebowski-themed fun featuring a screening of The Big Lebowski, trivia, and a costume contest! Costumes (bathrobes, cardigans, sunglasses!) are encouraged, and White Russians will be flowing at the bar. Doors open at 6PM, costume contest prize will be awarded at 7 pm followed by the screening.

Tickets are only \$5, and must be purchased in advance at Aladdin-theater.com:



BROOKLYN CALENDAR

BLUTC

1/7 @ 7pm
TBD

Friends of Brooklyn Park
Board Meeting

1/13 @ 5:30pm
Rose City Coffee

BAC: Board Meeting

1/14 @ 7pm
Sacred Heart Villa

Friends of Brooklyn Park
Visioning Meeting

1/20 @ 6pm
Brooklyn Carreta

BCAT: NET Training

1/22 @ 6pm
Sacred Heart Villa

BAC: General Meeting

1/28 @ 7pm
Sacred Heart Villa

BLUTC

2/4 @ 7pm
TBD

CCC: Movie Night
Doors @ 6pm Start @ 7pm

2/5 @ 6pm
Aladdin Theater

Friends of Brooklyn Park
Visioning Meeting

2/10 @ 5:30pm
Rose City Coffee

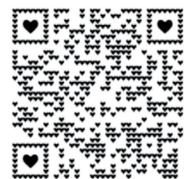
BAC: Board Meeting

2/11 @ 7pm
Sacred Heart Villa

BCAT

@ 6pm
Sacred Heart Villa

**Scan and subscribe
for more events and
up-to-date
information:**



Events on the BAC Calendar are open to the public.

Do you have a community event to add to the BAC calendar?

Email Brooklyn News:
brooknews@bacpdx.org

Want to adopt-a-block? Contact
Kathy Orton at
kt_orton@hotmail.com

♫ Brooklyn Bridge is Naming Now... Naming now... ♫

Neighbors in the Brooklyn neighborhood are working with the City of Portland to officially name the bridge that crosses the railyard on SE Holgate Boulevard as the "Brooklyn Bridge."

The idea started with a simple question: "What's the name of the bridge in Brooklyn neighborhood, that spans the Brooklyn Rail Yard, and connects East and West Brooklyn?" When we realized it didn't have a name, the answer became obvious:

"Let's name it the Brooklyn Bridge!"

It's a name locals already use—and now there's a real opportunity to make it official. A City Councilor has drafted a resolution in support of the naming, and we're gathering community and business backing to help it move forward. Sign the petition to show your support: ourbrooklynbridge.com or follow the QR Code:

Want to help?

We'd love help spreading the word, collecting signatures, and building support. To get involved, contact Rion at rion@bnrpx.com or scan:



Let's make it official—Portland's own Brooklyn Bridge!

February Pet-of-the-Month

Sugar Ray, Ray Gun, Ray Bone, or Jonesy, Bonesy, Bonium, Banjo Ray... the list of names goes on and on! This feline loves window sitting, feather chasing, and cat napping. Ray is a 2 year-old with infinite energy. ✨ Catch a Ray in a window near you! ✨



January Pet-of-the-Month

Rudy, an 11 year-old Half Mini Heeler Half Jack Russell, was found on a friend's farm in East Texas. Rudy loves a good smell and Squirrels! Many believe Rudy dreams of Peanut Butter stuffed squirrels. Rudy is eager to be friends with everyone, especially kids because they tend to have snacks or crumbs on them. Rudy does not appreciate delivery trucks or Public Buses.



BROOKLoveYourNeighbor

Submitted by Cheryl Crowe

The community is mourning the unexpected loss of an educator, reporter, neighbor, and friend Rita Leonard, a fixture in our community for over 40 years. Rita passed away on December 15th.

For four decades, Rita actively participated in events while wearing both her signature kerchief and contagious smile. In addition to her community activism, Rita was a dedicated educator, serving as a teacher for Portland Public Schools until her recent retirement. Rita documented neighborhood meetings, events, and happenings via her reporting for the local newspaper, The BEE. Rita was The BEE's freelance contributor with the longest tenure, says Eric Norberg, The BEE's Editor and GM.

Ben Tarne, Co-founder and former chair of Friends of Brooklyn Park, remarked, "Rita was instrumental in advocating for and supporting Friends of Brooklyn Park's (FOBP) Summer Youth Program. She was there from day one and continued through all of the years. Brooklyn's community was built on the work and support of Rita, a true neighborhood hero."

Melaney Dittler recounted that Rita's support for the FOBP program was hands-on; she spent years collecting bottles and cans for the FOBP Bottle Drop fundraiser, often delivering 10 to 15 bags a week. Today, that legacy of service continues through her family, as her daughter continues to support the FOBP program.

Neighbor Capi Reed recalled her time at First Presbyterian Church, where Rita famously "bribed" children to attend Summer Sunday School by serving popsicles in the morning—ensuring kids were the ones dragging their parents to church. Whether she was "planting" artificial flowers, so she could enjoy blooms all year long or delivering a plate of Christmas cookies to her neighbors, Rita brought a beautiful smile and a contagious laugh to every interaction.

Rita Leonard didn't just live in Brooklyn; she shaped it. Rita - and her Christmas cookies! - will be deeply missed. It's clear that her legacy will continue to shape Brooklyn. Even if you never met Rita, her impact on Brooklyn's neighborly spirit will be felt for decades to come. Pictured: Rita and her grandkids, Ethan and Rachel.

♥♥♥♥ Brooklyn Loves Rita ♥♥♥♥♥



A BIG THANK YOU to the following volunteers who deliver this newsletter to your door, come rain or shine, hot or cold! The neighborhood saves thousands of dollars every year by hand delivering instead of mailing.

Hans Albing ~ John Ammondson ~ Kirra Anderson ~ Teresa Bechtold ~ Irene & Steve Bachhuber
April Bewley ~ Cheryl Crowe ~ April Dewees ~ David Dicks ~ Melaney Dittler ~ Bard Folk ~ Charlotte Hales
Esther Fowler & Cordon Simon ~ Chris Hagerbaumer ~ Jim Harlan ~ Margaret & David Holten ~ Jeff Kleen
Debra Kyle ~ Shannon Hart Leary ~ Leslie Lewis ~ Linda Livermore ~ Eva Marcotrigiano ~ Matt McComas
Maggie & Dan McSwiggen ~ Brad Messinger ~ Carolyn Norblet ~ Mike O'Connor ~ Kathy Orton ~ Betts Peters
Marie Phillippi ~ Kim Poppe ~ Mark Romanaggi ~ Denny Stucke ~ RuthAnn Tsukuda ~ John Wiebke
Carol Wittwer ~ Stuart Zeltzer ~ Michaela Voohees



Brooklyn History: The Tibbetts by Kathy Orton



On the east side of the Willamette river, thick forests blanketed the slopes where the indigenous Clackamas people traveled via the 'Oaks Bluff' trail (which is partially retained as Oaks Bottom Trail). A few settlers existed, and then the U.S. Congress passed the 1850 Donation Land Claims Act, which brought an influx of settlers for the 640 acre free sites. Gideon Tibbetts (born 1809 in Bangor, Maine) and wife Mary Ann Fox Tibbetts decided to take the Oregon Trail west.

The Tibbetts left Iowa in 1847, and reached The Dalles in 7 months. While in The Dalles for 6 weeks, they built a flat boat, and subsequently portaged all their belongings down river, down falls, and where successfully saved and pulled to shore by Clackamas people. The Tibbetts then had dinner of wheat and black molasses on the existing claim of the Dobbins family. Tempted by southern gold finds, Dobbins turned his claim over to Tibbetts.

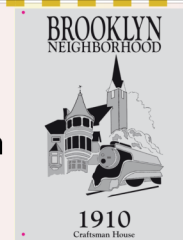
This claim went from the river to 26th, and from Holgate to Division. This area contained a high ground, a rich river bottom, a meadow, swamp and numerous creeks. The Tibbetts cut down firs and cedars to build a cabin, then cleared 16 acres of thick underbrush to plant timothy hay, which they sold for \$20 per ton. The Tibbetts went on to rent horses, plant rows of apple and pear trees, kept bees, and turned the meadow into the first grain mill on the east side. This area claimed by the Tibbetts was then known as Brookland and 'Brookland Mills Flour', which had renown as the only mill in town. The Tibbetts then became more real estate agent than farmer. They sold the mill to James Stevens. Subsequently, the mill burned and was not rebuilt. Tibbetts went on to build another house with painted boards, another first on the east side. On the mantle sat a conch shell found in New Orleans, which Mr. Tibbett used to call both workers and family to dinner.

In 1868, Mr. Tibbetts granted right of way to the Oregon Central Railroad, and started selling Brookland lots for \$50. He became known as "Father" Tibbetts. He founded a school at 16th & Tibbetts for 20 kids, was a patron at Brother Wittens singing school and formed a competitive spelling school that had yearly "Bees" with dancing and feasting. Nearby ferry squabbles left Brookland without a ferry, and lot prices dipped to \$5-10/lot. The Tibbetts went on to build family home with 4 red diamonds and a green roof. The Tibbetts had 9 children, a dog 'Lion' among horses, gardens, trees and shrubs. In 1876, Mr. Tibbetts served one term in the Oregon House on a platform of good conduct and good government. Mr. Tibbetts passed in 1887, his wife 4 years later; only 1 of 9 kids survived him, and they left 6 grandkids dispersed on the east side. By 1900, the creek was filled in, Southern Pacific RR took over train operations, and Brookland had become the community of Brooklyn.

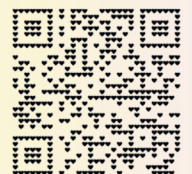
Brooklyn Historical Plaques

The Brooklyn Historical Society provides plaques for \$32 each. The plaques are identical in design and color to those already in existence with the addition of construction date, a custom script, and a weather resistant material.

Questions? Email the BAC Treasurer at treasurer@bacpdx.org

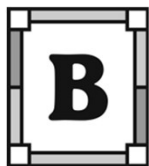


Order Online!



This bi-monthly newsletter is published by the BAC, and distributed by many dedicated volunteers. Community announcements, events, pet-of-the-month nominations, etc., are accepted as space is available, and subject to BAC approval. **Please submit items by the 1st of even-numbered months.**

Editor & Designer: Dandy Lion  Distribution Coordinator: Marie P.  Email: brooknews@bacpdx.org



BEST OF BROOKLYN BUSINESS BULLETIN

Supported by your Brooklyn Business Association (BBA)

Welcome to the business insert of the Brooklyn News! This insert is meant to **familiarize neighborhood residents** with our Brooklyn area neighborhood businesses. This is a place for **Brooklyn businesses** to advertise, inform, and share their products and services. This insert supports our local small businesses, which are vital to the unique character and vibrancy of our neighborhood. If you are a Brooklyn small business or know any Brooklyn based business interested in having a **feature space on this page or an ad**, please reach out to us at the BBA at GreaterBrooklynBA@gmail.com for more information.

Brooklyn Business Member News and Events

Brooklyn Center Suites – Celebrating 25 years in Business!

Since 1997, they have been a neighborhood cornerstone. Originally built in 1982 as studio apartments, the building was transformed into an extended-stay motel by owners Jane and David Schue. The suites were originally furnished for their new purpose by Goldsmith's. Years ago, Jane worked as a maid at a Holiday Inn while in college. While they initially expected Reed College's parents to be their main customers, they tend to host a mix of travelers, including friends and family of neighbors and many glass artists teaching at Bullseye Glass. Fun Fact: Before becoming a hotel, Moonstruck Chocolate rented a room as an office in the 1990s. Reach out to Jane for a tour or book a room for family/friends now!

Away Days - more than just good beer...

Open seven days a week! Champs Burger serves dinner on Thursdays (4–7 p.m.), lunch and dinner on Fridays (12–7 p.m.), breakfast through dinner on Saturdays (8–11 a.m. and 12–7 p.m.), and breakfast on Sundays (8–11 a.m.). Please check our website for weekly pop-ups on Wednesdays and Sundays for additional food options. Our weekly events include:

- Mondays: Industry Night (\$5 pints) and NEW Bingo.
- Thursdays: Run Club at 6:30 p.m.
- Saturdays: Longer runs with the Run Club
- Sat/Sun: Catch premier league starting at 7 or 8 a.m.

Toastmasters - meet here in Brooklyn!

Want to improve your Public Speaking? A Toastmasters Club is in the neighborhood: Noon Talkers! Join us on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at the Fred Meyer Main Office Lobby (3800 SE 22nd) at 11:45 am. The meeting starts at noon and ends at 1:00 pm. For more information, please contact lemonwoodcourt@gmail.com

Upcoming Brooklyn Business Assoc Events: Open to all Brooklyn area business owners/managers.

Member-Hosted Lunch

January 16th – 11:45am-1pm @ PDXFIT

3430 SE 20th Ave – *Tips to start your business year right!*



Meta Pizza

NEW BBA 'Limited Membership'!

3541 SE Milwaukie Ave

Meta Pizza has served New York-style thin crust with a Portland twist on Milwaukie Avenue for four years. They offer exceptional food in a welcoming atmosphere, featuring monthly specials made with fresh ingredients and traditional recipes. Recently, they supported the community with food drives and offered those who had lost their SNAP benefits a free cheese or vegan slice. Grab a slice today!



It's That Time Again Tax

NEW BBA 'Limited Membership'!

ItsThatTimeAgainTax.com

A community-centered tax practice owned and operated by Steven Ostling specializing in individual, sole proprietor, and small business tax services. Dedicated to building relationships based on trust, reliability, and clarity to ensure his clients feel confident filing their taxes. As a resident of Brooklyn, he is grateful to serve our community and proud to be a tax partner you can rely on year after year.



PDXFIT

NEW BBA 'Community Partner'!

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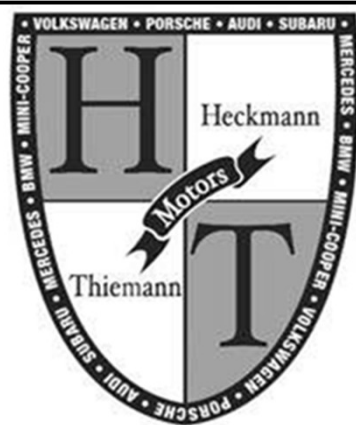
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Our Newsletter Ads Renewal is NOW, please email the BBA if you are interested in renewing or placing a new ad for 2026! Deadline is Feb 6th!

Any business interested in purchasing ad space in the Brooklyn Newsletter please email all inquiries to GreaterBrooklynBA@gmail.com. Priority will always go to BBA Members and Brooklyn based businesses.

Our Brooklyn Climate Action Team wanted to share this solar opportunity with our community!

SUBSCRIBE TO A LOCAL SOLAR FARM

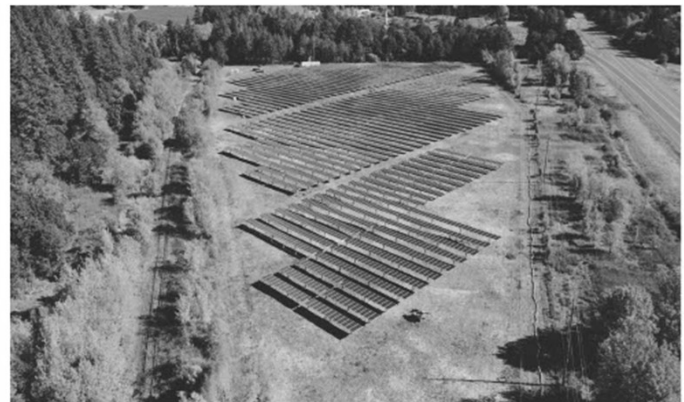
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