

Brooklyn NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

July / August 2026



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Brooklyn Action Corps (BAC): Board of Directors, and More

During the May meeting, community members elected the BAC Board of Directors. The BAC Board of Directors are:

Chairperson Stuart Z. (chair@bacpdx.org)
 Vice Chair & LUTC Chair Rion L. (vicechair@bacpdx.org)
 Treasurer Debbie D. (treasurer@bacpdx.org)
 Secretary & SE Uplift Liaison Dandylion (secretary@bacpdx.org)
 Director Melaney D. (board@bacpdx.org)

The entire Board of Directors can be reached via email at board@bacpdx.org. Five of the eleven authorized Director positions have been filled. The remaining vacancies can be filled by the Board vote at a meeting. Community members are eligible for the Board of Directors after attending two BAC Board meetings, or after attending 1 BAC Board meeting and 2 or more BAC general meetings or committee meetings.

Check out the calendar for details on upcoming meetings, including a BLUTC zoning update in July, discussion with midterm election candidates in September, and the annual Ice Cream Social on September 13th! Volunteers are needed for the Ice Cream Social. Please, email board@bacpdx.org.

Friends of Brooklyn Park (FOBP): Brooklyn's Free Summer Youth Program

The Summer Youth Program will run 1 pm - 9 pm. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from June 15 to August 21. Come by and check out the games, play a round of ping-pong or tennis ball golf, or compete in a shuffleboard tournament. Stop by *The Shack* at Brooklyn Park for some all-ages fun!

The Summer Youth Program is completely community funded. FOBP relies on generous donations from local businesses and individuals, as well as grants and proceeds from our Bottle Drop program, to fund the Summer Youth Program. 100% of your donation goes toward putting on the park program each summer. We appreciate your continued support by visiting www.friendsofbrooklynpark.org to get involved, donate, or to learn more about FOBP.

THANK YOU BROOKLYN for supporting FOBP's Rummage Sale, and thanks to everyone that donated and participated in the annual Brooklyn Yard Sale.

FOBP is partnering with the Brooklyn Business Association to put on the Best of Brooklyn BBQ on Thursday, July 23. Stop by for an evening of music, food, and fun at the park! Check out the Best of Brooklyn Business Bulletin inserted within for details.

Did You Notice?

Brooklyn officially has a Brooklyn Bridge! Look for the new signage as you cross over the rail yard on Holgate. Check out the Brooklyn Bridge article to learn more!



Brooklyn Neighborhood News brooknews@bacpdx.org

Brooklyn Garden leadership team bcg-leads@bacpdx.org

Community Connections Committee (CCC) ccc@bacpdx.org

Brooklyn Climate Action Team (BCAT) bcat@350pdx.org

BAC Land Use and Transportation Committee (LUTC) bluc@bacpdx.org

BAC Conduct Committee conduct@bacpdx.org

BAC Board board@bacpdx.org

BAC Chair chair@bacpdx.org

BAC Secretary secretary@bacpdx.org

BAC Treasurer treasurer@bacpdx.org

BAC Vice Chair vicechair@bacpdx.org

BAC Executive Team executive@bacpdx.org

Brooklyn Action Corps (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, and Board meetings occur monthly on the 2nd Wednesday.

Brooklyn Land Use and Transportation Committee (BLUTC)

BLUTC generally meets on the first Wednesday of every month. BLUTC welcomes participation and invites you to join the monthly meetings. Connect with BLUTC via email: bluc@bacpdx.org

The BLUTC (and special thanks to Lucas!) helped the neighborhood draft a public comment regarding the railroad merger. Join BLUTC as the track updates on Ross Island, zoning changes, and potential developments.

Brooklyn Climate Action Team (BCAT)

BCAT continues to focus on climate action and community resilience via the Go-Bag Series. The third and final session to help neighbors build and refresh their emergency kits will be on July 7th at the Sacred Heart Villa community room.

Monthly meetings will shift to the 3rd Thursday at 6 pm in the Sacred Heart Villa community room (Milwaukie and Center).

Do you want to get involved? Reach out at bcap@350pdx.org sign up for the email list.

Friends of Brooklyn Park (FOBP)

Monthly Board Meetings are open to the public. Check out the online calendar for FOBP events and fundraisers! Email fobrooklynpark@gmail.com for meeting info.

For more additional details on upcoming events, visit: <https://www.friendsofbrooklynpark.org/events>

BROOKLYN CALENDAR

FOBP Summer Youth Program

6/15 - 8/21
Brooklyn Park

Potluck and Convo

7/5 @ 4pm-6pm
Brooklyn Park

BCAT: Go-Bag

7/7 @ 7:30pm-8:15pm
Brooklyn School Park

BAC: Board Meeting

7/8 @ 7pm
Sacred Heart Villa

BCAT

7/16 @ 6pm
Sacred Heart Villa

BAC General Meeting

7/22 @ 7pm
Sacred Heart Villa

GBBA Presents:
Best of Brooklyn BBQ

7/23 @ 5:30pm-8pm
Brooklyn Park

Potluck and Convo

8/2 @ 4pm-6pm
Brooklyn Park

BLUTC

8/5 @ 7pm
Email bluc@bacpdx.org

FOBP Board Meeting

6/9 @ 5:30pm
Email FOBP for location

BAC Board Meeting

8/12 @ 7pm
Sacred Heart Villa

BCAT

8/20 @ 6pm
Sacred Heart Villa

Hood-to-Coast Relay

8/28 @ 12am - Morning
Springwater Trail

BLUTC

9/2 @ 7pm
Email bluc@bacpdx.org

Brooklyn's Annual Ice Cream Social

September 13th
Brooklyn Park

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



BAC calendar events are open to the public. Do you have a community event for the BAC calendar? Email Brooklyn News: brooknews@bacpdx.org

BROOKLoveYourNeighbors: Earth Day 2026

by Kathy Orton

Brooklyn residents turned out for the 2026 Earth Day Litter Pickup on April 25th. Though the numbers were smaller, lots got done, as neighbors doubled down on areas worked. The Robertsons cleaned the littered area in front of and behind Columbia Meats. The Dicks took their truck and got the areas of Powell to 26th, and all of Holgate for the Brooklyn Bridge ceremony. Debra Kyle cleaned around the Post Office and Franklin. Meanwhile, Marie Phillippi, Wes Ward and Kathy Orton covered patches of Milwaukie Ave. Susie Dirks and daughter Juniper, did all of 7th. Good job by all!! Also, special thanks to Debra and Wes, who are moving out of Brooklyn for their consistent efforts. We hope to see you all next year for the Earth Day celebration and clean up.

Volunteers are needed for Brooklyn's annual Ice Cream Social. This event features live music, local artists, businesses, community groups, and (of course) ICE CREAM!

Are you interested in participating? Are you a Brooklyn artist? Business? Performer? Reach out to board@bacpdx.org to see how you can get involved!

Brooklyn Community Garden (BCG)

Interested in volunteering?

Please email us at bcg-leads@bacpdx.org. We'd love to have you join the effort!

Interested in donating?

Venmo @BAC-97202 (please put Brooklyn Community Garden or BCG donation plot in the comment)



Brooklyn Bridge: Naming a Bridge, Connecting the Community

May 31, 2026, appeared as any other Portland day, with classic sunshine weather and clear skies... Mount Hood stood bright in the sky, visible from a nameless bridge in the morning. That nameless bridge over the railyard on Holgate is one of the few connections for Brooklynites who are divided east and west of the railyard. Like many of the infrastructure projects on Portland's East Side, the railyard had a significant impact on Brooklyn. Other infrastructure projects impacting the Brooklyn neighborhood include the Ross Island bridge and the 99E corridor, which cut access from the waterfront. While these projects have slowly divided and boxed in Brooklyn, the neighborhood spirit has remained through mutual aid, civic action, and sharing our lived experiences. This neighborhood spirit was evident in Rion Lyle as he led the way by drumming up support, gathering signatures, and organizing an opening ceremony. On February 18th, Portland City Council unanimously voted to name the bridge between Southeast 17th Avenue and Southeast 26th Avenue the Brooklyn Bridge. District 1 Councilor Angelito Morillo's office donated the costs for both the labor and the materials needed for the update. And then on May 31st, with Rion as MC, Brooklynites marched toward a nameless bridge and for the first time, crossed the Brooklyn Bridge that connects our community.



Pictured: (left) the opening ceremony, (below) new signage, (right) custom made graphic, and (bottom right) Brooklyn's Rion Lyle and Councilor Morillo speaking at the opening ceremony.



Special thanks to Security Signs (parking lot), Brooklyn Caretta (bevvies), and everyone else that made this event possible!

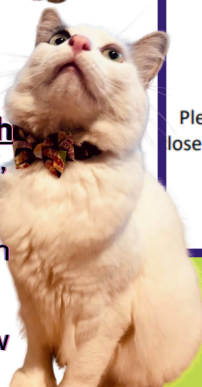
July Pet-of-the-Month

Norma is a spunky senior rat, who in her professional capacity focuses on creating functional art, using nibbled cardboard boxes and tastefully shredded paper to construct designs that are as practical as they are striking. For leisure, Norma pursues several refined hobbies; couch crumb prospecting, savoring the complex flavors on the surface of the human finger, and relishing being groomed with an old toothbrush. Norma's dream is to one day break her record for the number of blueberries she can fit in her mouth, her current record being one.



August Pet-of-the-Month

Maxwell is a polydactyl cat, and those extra toes are used for lounging in some peculiar positions. Although Maxwell isn't wearing a tuxedo, they love to look dapper while wearing a bow tie.



Free Community Pantry at 3024 SE 7th Ave.

Please share if you are able. When you go to the store, grabbing an extra item or two can make a huge difference.

High need items:

Canned meats and soups (Chicken, tuna, chili, soups)

Canned or fresh fruits and vegetables

Look for discounted items like yogurts, butter, cream cheese, eggs, small milks.

Bread, Rice, Granola Bars

Peanut butter



Please share only sealed, unused items. If donating prepared food, please use labeled containers each marked with contents, allergens, and the date it was made.



Join the Facebook Group for (almost) daily pantry status

Pet-of-the-month!

Please submit your pet-of-the-month nominations to brooknews@bacpdx.org!

The Brooklyn Adopt-a-Block program helps keep Brooklyn safe and more attractive, and the program helps maintain a sense of community pride.



To adopt-a-block, Contact Kathy Orton at kt_orton@hotmail.com



BROOKLYN HISTORY: A "TOWN CENTER" BLOOMS & DISAPPEARS IN THE 1920s & 1930s

by Kathy Orton

In the 1920s, Brooklyn had a 'Town Center', lined with shops, a sitting park, and a fountain. This was where the trolley lines converged at Milwaukie Avenue and Powell Valley Road. Powell Valley was only a "lane" west of Milwaukie Avenue. Every service was available at the town center – from meat markets, produce, bakeries, household goods, repair shops, and even auto maintenance. Entertainment was abundant and included the Doc Watkins Nickelodion, Gellers Theater, lake and river access, and there were schools and churches that provided education and community.

Brooklyn's namesake waterways were prominent for both recreation and industry. Brooklyn Creek, Brooklyn Lake, and Ross Island were intact and easily accessible. Drastic changes were about to occur, which started with infill. The creeks, lake, and trestle roadways were filled. Windemuth Baths on Ross Island were closed. The river and its water sources were to become industrialized, which made recreation difficult or impossible and hazardous.

As the eastside population grew, so did the demand for another bridge. Ross Island Bridge was completed in 1926, wiping out Brooklyn's 'Town Center', as Powell became a Boulevard and crossed the river. Portland's growth and demand for resources impacted Brooklyn greatly. In 1926, Ross Island Sand & Gravel took over Ross Island for its new dredging site. In 1932, the Portland Rail, Light and Power split into 3 companies: PGE, Portland Traction and Portland Electric (interurban rail). In 1930, Doc Watkins closed; in 1934, Gellers Theater became the Aladdin. In 1932, 99E (McLoughlin Blvd) expanded and cut off river access. The City of Portland gave Brooklyn compensation via Powell Park of today, along with a fountain at Milwaukie Avenue and Powell.

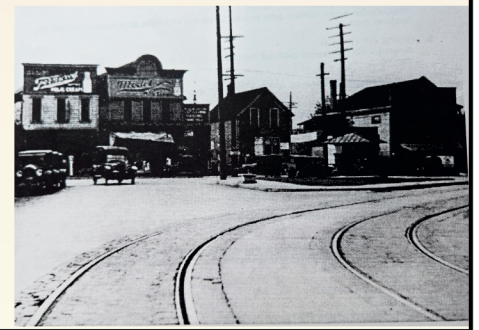
Residents no longer had easy access to services and recreation. One positive development was the building of a new Brooklyn School at the present site. Completed in 1930, teachers and pupils celebrated with a parade down Milwaukie Avenue. The school was large enough to house all grades, and vocational training. Both Brooklyn School and the Sacred Heart School & Parish connected new & old Brooklyn, and both were celebrated.



Do you have a Brooklyn story to share?

Email brooknews@bacpdx.org.

Pictured: Milwaukie & Powell circa 1924



Brooklyn's free cargo bike rental:

Brooklyn Cargo Bike



Brooklyn Historical Plaques

The ordering process is being updated. Until then, email requests to treasurer@bacpdx.org. Include your name, the home address, year the home was built, and preferred contact method.

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NEIGHBORHOOD



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Brooklyn apparel! This exclusive merch celebrates Brooklyn's apple orchard history with a unique apple blossom. There are multiple colors and styles available. Order online: <https://BACMerch.printful.me>



This bi-monthly newsletter is published by the Brooklyn Action Corp (BAC), and distributed by many dedicated volunteers. Community announcements, events, pet-of-the-month nominations, photos, etc., are accepted as space is available, and subject to BAC approval. Please email submissions 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. Please support 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. Please check our website BrooklynBA.com for all updates and membership opportunities.

Brooklyn Business Member News and Events

NEW Aladdin Mural Coming Soon!

Did you notice that the wall in front of the Aladdin was resurfaced recently? Well, artists Blaine Fontana and David Rice have been chosen to paint a mural this summer on that prominent wall facing Milwaukie Ave. It will have a music focus (of course) and will blend into and focus on the architecture and style of the venue. A design has yet to be officially chosen, but since these are the same artists who worked together in 2015 to complete the TriMet mural on 17th/Holgate, I am sure it will be spectacular. Portland Street Art Alliance is coordinating the effort and look for the mural to be completed by early September at the latest.

Portland Leather Goods turns 10!

Portland Leather is celebrating their 10-year anniversary this year and had several celebrations in June including some special limited-edition products and sales. Portland Leather is known for their simple leather craftsmanship that develops a beautiful patina and just gets better over time. Find a large selection of handbags, accessories, and more at their outlet store at 25th/Gladstone in our neighborhood.

The People's Depot Bottle Return and Clinton Triangle Shelter Updates

Recent City budget cuts have undermined commitments made in the Clinton Triangle Shelter GNA. Urban Alchemy's "PDX Love" team was essential for community support, yet funding for their Zone 1 outreach has ended and will shift the burden onto local businesses and residents to keep the area clean and report issues. Compounding this issue is the proposed addition of "The People's Depot" bottle/can redemption site at the corner of Milwaukie and Powell, further increasing neighborhood concerns with crime, drug use, and livability. The BBA urges our neighbors to ask the City to clearly identify impacted commitments, present a new service maintenance plan, and ensure transparent communication before proceeding with changes to services.

Brooklyn Business Association Upcoming Events:

****We are taking the Summer off from our Lunch and Happy Hour networking events! We hope to see you again starting in September!***

"Best of Brooklyn" BBQ

Local Business Fair with FOBP Fundraiser

Thursday, July 23rd – 5:30pm - 8pm @ Brooklyn Park

Two BBQ Food carts (*Rip City Grill and Smak Dab's*) with deeply discounted meals, live music by our favorite *Kivett Bednar Band*, great raffle prizes donated by our businesses to support *FOBP*, Brooklyn's favorite food cart pod owner *Garner Moody* as emcee, and of course your *local businesses* sharing their products and services with the whole community! Check out bbq.brooklynba.com for more details.

TRAINS, TRAINS, and more TRAINS??

A proposed merger between Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern could substantially increase rail traffic through our area, specifically at the SE 8th, 11th, and 12th crossings. At the Brooklyn Yard, Union Pacific envisions a 22% increase in the volume of trains if the merger happens. The Brooklyn Action Corps LUTC has already taken a proactive stance by formally filing a Notice of Intent (NOI) to comment on the merger with the Surface Transportation Board (STB). This filing ensures that our community's concerns regarding at-grade crossing blockages are heard at the federal level. The STB holds the authority to mandate solutions if the merger's impacts are deemed extreme. This could include requiring Union Pacific to open a formal dialogue with the City of Portland or even mandating that the railroad fund a grade separation to resolve persistent blockage issues.

Membership Renewals for April and May:

Community Partners:

Brooklyn Carreta and Bullseye Glass

Neighborhood Partners:

Brooklyn Pharmacy, Security Signs, Classic Pianos

Growing Partners:

Barker & Calkins, Inc., Shanti Recovery and Wellness, Health and Wellness with Plexus Worldwide

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BBA Business Spotlight!



Brooklyn Pharmacy
BBA 'Neighborhood Partner'
Brooklyn-PharmacyRX.com

How it Started... Established in 1897, Brooklyn Pharmacy stands as one of Oregon's oldest independent pharmacies. For 54 years, the establishment was owned by Mike Dardis, RPh, a beloved figure in the community who recently passed away in January 2026. Pat Hubbell took over the legacy in November 2017, introducing enhanced services such as home deliveries, immunizations, and both human and veterinary compounding, alongside an expanded selection of OTC products. With the steadfast support of the local community, Brooklyn Pharmacy continues to grow in strength and viability each year.

How's it Going? Currently, they are preparing to provide immunizations for the community this season: Flu, COVID, Pneumonia, Shingles, Tetanus, RSV and many others. The pharmacy is also growing its compounding services for a wider range of patients, including both humans and pets (including canines, felines, porcupines, and other "ines" LOL) Visitors can meet HAL (short for Haloperidol), the adorable resident "pharmacy dog" and "Customer Comfort Specialist," who provides emotional support in exchange for affection and treats from their jar. Due to unsustainable contract terms from CVS/Caremark, Brooklyn Pharmacy is terminating that business relationship as of Aug 6, 2026. This change also ends partnerships with CVS-owned Anthem and Aetna. For the latest updates and service details, please visit their website.

A big shout out to the Brooklyn neighborhood and all of its wonderful support!!

- Peace, Love and Good Drugs!



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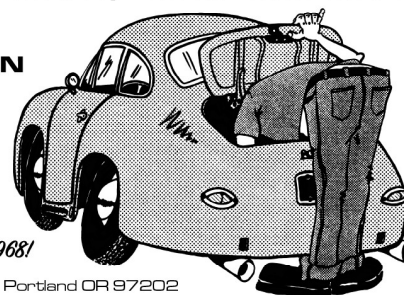


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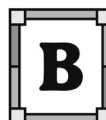
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