

Why DIY? Self-Sufficiency and American Life

Free discussion about self-sufficiency, DIY culture, and their effects, at the Banks Library

Are we as self-sufficient as we can be? As we should be? What are the pleasures and pitfalls of doing it yourself? Join a free community conversation that investigates why we strive to be makers and doers in a world that provides more conveniences than ever before.

This is the focus of "Why DIY? Self-Sufficiency and American Life," a free conversation with Jennifer Burns Bright on Thursday, February 28, 2019 at 7 pm in the Jane Moore Community Room of the Banks Public Library, 42461 NW Market St., Banks, OR 97106. This program is hosted by The Friends of the Banks Public Library and sponsored by Oregon Humanities.

Jennifer Burns Bright is a food educator and travel writer based in Astoria. She moved to the coast after many years teaching literature at the University of Oregon, where she researched modernism and desire, led a faculty research group in the emerging discipline of food studies, and won a national pedagogy award for a team-taught, interdisciplinary class on bread. She holds a PhD from the University of California at Irvine and a Master Food Preserver certification from OSU Extension.

When she's not out gathering seaweed or fermenting fruit, she might be found interviewing young farmers, old pirates, and mad scientists.

Through the Conversation Project, Oregon Humanities offers free programs that engage community members in thoughtful, challenging conversations about ideas critical to our daily lives and our state's future.

For more information about this free community discussion, please contact Susan Cackler at (503) 324-1382 or susanc@wccls.org.

Oregon Humanities (921 SW Washington, Suite 150; Portland, OR 97205) connects Oregonians to ideas that change

lives and transform communities. More information about Oregon Humanities' programs and publications can be found at oregonhumanities.org. Oregon Humanities is an independent, nonprofit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities and a partner of the Oregon Cultural Trust.

A Common-Sense Way for Oregon to Prevent Child Homelessness and Promote Home Ownership

Mortgage Interest Deduction Coalition gears up for 2019 legislative session

All Oregonians — especially children — deserve to live in dignity, and that requires having a safe and stable place to live. Unfortunately, due to the lack of affordable housing, too many Oregonians struggle to keep a roof over their heads; too many families find the dream of homeownership out of reach. But Oregon can do something to confront the problem without spending any new money — it simply involves spending current dollars more wisely and fairly.

Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer (District 46) is introducing the Home Ownership and Housing Opportunity Bill, which empowers Oregon to address the statewide housing crisis in a big way. The bill enacts common-sense reforms of Oregon's biggest housing subsidy, the mortgage interest deduction.

The Mortgage Interest Deduction Coalition, led by Housing Oregon, and Oregon Center for Public Policy, is working to build a broad base of community support for this legislation.

In the midst of a statewide affordable housing crisis, Oregon's biggest housing program will spend \$1 billion subsidizing homeownership mainly for well-off Oregonians. The Oregon mortgage interest deduction does little to help moderate and low-income homeowners, while it does subsidize vacation homes. It does nothing to help the record number of school children experiencing homelessness.

It's time to rebalance the Oregon mortgage interest deduction (MID)

to serve more Oregonians who need stable and affordable homes.

The Home Ownership and Housing Opportunity Bill proposes these simple changes to Oregon's unfair and unbalanced mortgage interest deduction:

- Phase out the MID for our state's richest 4.4% of income earners — begins phase out with individual and joint filers at \$200,000 income per year — those who can most easily afford housing. Completely phases out MID at \$250,000.
- Maintain the same level of state mortgage interest deduction for 95% of Oregon households.
- Would allow MID for second homes with no business deduction income — i.e. not vacation home income generating.
- Would not exempt MID for second homes used primarily as vacation rental income generation.
- Redirect over \$100 million in savings per biennium to help end child homelessness and help more Oregon families to turn their dreams of owning a home into actual opportunities. The coalition is proposing 50% to go towards home ownership programs with the other 50% going to homelessness emergency housing programs with an emphasis on families with children.

By making this modest adjustment to Oregon's largest housing subsidy, and redirecting the savings to where it's needed most, we can build Oregon communities that we're all proud to call home.

To learn more contact: Brian Hoop, Director, Housing Oregon, brian@housingoregon.org, 503-475-6056.

What's Happening at the Vernonia Library

Upcoming Events

Food for Fines
Tuesday, February 19 - February 28
Bring non-perishable food or personal care items to the library and \$1 in fines or lost/damaged fees will be forgiven from your account in exchange for each item. All donations, including money paid on fines during this time period, will be donated to Vernonia Cares.

Movie Night
Tuesday, February 19, 6 pm
Featuring the 1996 Vernonia Flood Video filmed by Dale Webb

5th Annual Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration!
Saturday, March 2, 2 pm
Celebrate Read Across America Day in honor of Dr. Seuss's Birthday. Story read by our special visitor, The Cat in the Hat, followed by pictures with the Cat, birthday cake, a craft, activities, scavenger hunt, and Seussish goodie bags.

Ongoing Programs

Writer's Group
Thursday, February 21, 6 - 7:30 pm

3rd Thursday of every month. For writers with all levels of experience.

Book Discussion Group
Last Monday of every month, 5:30 pm. Selection for February 25: *Worthy Brown's Daughter* by Phillip Margolin

Storytime

Baby and Toddler Time
Mondays, 10:30 - 11:15 am
Songs, rhymes, books, toys, and bubbles! For ages 0 - 3. Older siblings welcome.

Preschool Storytime
Fridays, 10:30 - 11:15 am
Stories, activity, and a craft. Planned for children up through age 6.

Library Closures
Monday, February 18 for Presidents' Day

Library Hours & Contact
Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 10 - 5
Tuesday, Thursday: 1 - 7
Saturday: 10 - 4
Closed Sundays
Phone: (503) 429-1818
E-mail: library@vernonia-or.gov

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