



Safe, Clean and Sober Leader Dies

June 26 – Michael Booker, 64, a beloved and longtime advocate of the African American community in Portland, dies after an unexpected liver cancer diagnosis just three weeks prior. Booker most recently helmed the executive director position at the Miracles Club, a nonprofit for recovering addicts.



New Roots on MLK

July 24 – Business owners celebrate the replanting of roots in the historic heart of Portland's black community during a grand opening celebration for Alberta Commons. Three person-of-color owned businesses, Cason's Fine Meats, Champions Barbershop and greenHAUS Galley + Boutique have opened in the redeveloped block at Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Alberta Street.

Tornado Hit

July 3 – A rare EF-0 tornado touched down in northeast Portland causing widespread damage in a mile long path, including these two trees which toppled over against a single home at Northeast 16th and Going Street. Amazingly, no injuries were reported.



Open for Summer

July 10 – A new outdoor pool at north Portland's Peninsula Park opens, replacing an outdated facility and expanding capacity for a resource that has a rich history of serving a multicultural community.

Program Fills Hunger Gap

Aug. 21 – Shannon Long, Multnomah County Library programming assistant, welcomes kids for free lunches as part of a summertime Meals 4 Kids program to stave off food insecurity for families that would normally receive free or reduced fare lunches for their kids during the school year.



Police Action at March Criticized

Sept. 25 – A youth-led climate strike draws thousands downtown to peacefully protest, but one incident involving police enforcement against some young people and the arrest of a young black male draws complaints from civic leaders for brutality.



In the Middle of a Fight

Oct. 9 – A proposed change to city code by City Commissioner Chloe Eudaly to lessen the power of neighborhood associations to better serve diverse and underserved populations becomes contentious. One of Eudaly's chief critics is her former employee, public policy consultant Mingus Mapps, who plans to run for her seat.



Campus Police to Keep Guns

Oct. 16 – Portland State University alumna and graduate student Olivia Pace and others address the PSU Board of Trustees to strongly criticize the university's decision to continue arming campus police with guns. The decision



followed the first ever PSU officer-involved shooting that killed a black man braking up a fight outside a bar near campus in 2018.

PSU Black Studies at Risk, Professor says

Nov. 20 – Professor Ethan Johnson, who heads up the Black Studies Department at Portland State University, says he doesn't feel like celebrating the department's 50th anniversary because PSU is failing to support the department and even more is failing to listen to the concerns of minority students and teachers.

