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The Portland Observer

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LOCAL NEWS
Grab Your Skates!

Portland Winter Ice Rink is Open

The Portland Winter Ice Rink and Woodsy Winter Village opened on December 16 in downtown Portland. In addition to the skating rink, the Woodsy Winter Village features a pop-up marketplace, food, warm beverages, and a cozy lounge with board games, seating areas, and warming pods. Tickets are now on sale! Prices are \$20 for Adults and \$12 for Youth under 12. Tickets include skate rentals; the Bobby The Seal Skating Aid can be rented for an additional \$10. Ticket discounts will be available with purchases from local retailers.



Portland Winter Ice Rink

The rink is located at 499 SW Naito Pkwy in downtown Portland near the waterfront at the west end of the Morrison Bridgehead. It's open now until Sunday, January 28, 2024. Ninety-minute skate sessions run 10 am to 10 pm from December 16-31

(closed on Christmas Day); hours will change in January. The Winter Village is open 12 pm to 8 pm through December with modified hours in January. Sponsors include Alaska Airlines, Portland Trail Blazers / Rip City Remix / Portland Winterhawks / Rose Quarter, The Standard, Travel Portland, ZGF Architects, and Hotel Rose/StayPineapple, the official hotel sponsor of the Portland Winter Ice Rink.

The city, the private sector, and non-profit partners have been hard at work planning events for the holiday season and the new year, both longtime favorites and brand-new activities like the Ice Rink, to encourage residents and visitors to explore downtown, support local businesses, and enjoy all that our amazing city has to offer. P.S. Plenty more is happening in neighborhoods throughout Portland as well.

The Walking School Bus for the Win
Championing Safe Routes to School



Nicole (second from right) The Street Trust's Clackamas County Safe Routes to School Coordinator alongside fellow parents, advocates and students.

Nicole's personal journey within the Clackamas County Safe Routes to School program began when her eldest child started kindergarten. They intentionally moved to be within walking distance of their local school. However, she soon realized that while she had a relatively complete pathway system for her kids, some neighbors on the other side of the school did not. This prompted Nicole to work alongside Safe Routes to School advocates, securing grants, creating action plans, and organizing encouragement events at Linwood Elementary/Sojourner School in Milwaukie. Nicole continued her involvement in Clackamas Safe Routes to School as a Confluence AmeriCorps member, serving Clackamas County.

Her advocacy efforts focused on House Bill 2017, which played a crucial role in securing cyclical grant funding crucial to sustain the program and support the Linwood Ave Improvement project. This project stands as Nicole's proudest accomplishment, as it had a profound impact on her community. Over the years, Nicole has seen her efforts lead

to increased community involvement and higher participation of kids in active transportation, all while raising safety awareness. Her motivation to continue stems from the program's increasing longevity and the growing interest from school districts and cities in collaborating on solutions to transportation challenges.

Nicole is passionate about teaching kids how to safely navigate their communities and is optimistic about the revitalization of programs that encourage active transportation choices. "There are so many ways kids can get to school and around their community, and there needs to be resources to teach them how to do so safely. Clackamas County is considering multiple modes of transportation. By prioritizing pedestrians, bicyclists, and other wheel-operated contraptions, the awareness of all

users grows. I envision my role as a conduit of information and opportunities for people to grow their knowledge and put forth action toward more active transportation choices" Nicole said.

Looking ahead, Nicole envisions a promising future for the Clackamas Safe Routes to School program. Today, she supports the program full time as a staff member of The Street Trust. She is hopeful for the resurgence of programs like Safety Town and anticipates additional pedestrian and bicycle education opportunities. The program's focus on multiple modes of transportation in Clackamas County is set to raise awareness among all users, encouraging active transportation choices. A donation to support this cause can be made at Give! Guide - The Street Trust (giveguide.org).

SPOTLIGHT



Holiday Cookie Project

Sat., Dec. 23rd | 1 - 3 pm
Windermere Realty Trust
MLK Office Conference Rm.
2045 NE MLK Blvd.

Join Positive Charge PDX as they host their Annual Holiday Cookie Event