

The BAYSIDER

FALL Edition

September 2025

Published by the Bayside Neighborhood Association



TREE HUGGING!

Neighbors come together to honor new trees on the Bayside Trail



by Avery Yale Kamila

BAYSIDE — A young forest was hugged and blessed during Portland Parks & Recreation's first Tree Hugging event held in Bayside on Saturday, Sept. 13. The event, planned in conjunction with the Bayside Neighborhood Association, took place on the Bayside Trail near Trader Joe's.

Kicking off the event, the Burnurwurbskek Singers of the Penobscot Nation drummed and sang. Drum leader Ron Bear, who was joined at the drum by two sons and a grandson, told the assembled crowd that "Our songs are our prayers." Following the rousing and moving performance, a bald eagle was spotted circling overhead. None of those gathered had ever seen a bald eagle soaring over Bayside. Ron Bear said eagles show up when the group performs.

Next, participants took part in an immersive forest bathing walk. Portland's Supervising Park Ranger Elizabeth Collado, a Shinrin-Yoku Forest Bathing expert, led the experience, which invited participants to see,

hear, smell and taste the moment. Forest bathers also selected one of the trail's young saplings to hug and sit with. The forest bathing culminated with a tea ceremony using white pine tea. As Ranger Liz reminded the group, the Eastern white pine is the Maine state tree and the Tree of Peace of the Haudenosaunee nations.

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The Baysider

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(Portland Downtown)



Remebering Deb Van Hoewyk

The Bayside community is reeling from the loss of our longtime friend, mentor, guiding light, and superhero Deborah Van Hoewyk. Deb was a powerhouse member of the BNA board of directors for over a decade and was instrumental in creating programs like the Bayside World Market & Fair, Black Frame Art Sale, summer lunches at Unity Village, funding and operating the community garden, ESOL at the Immigrant Welcome center, and so much more. While nothing will replace her wisdom and power, she helped forge a community organization that fosters and empowers new leaders, and we're committed to continuing the work she started.

The following obituary is posted at funeralalternatives.net online...

Deborah Van Hoewyk of Portland and West Bath, Maine, passed away on August 28, 2025, following a brief illness.

Deborah was born in Barrington, Rhode Island, the daughter of Schuyler S. Sampson and Alice Mansur Sampson. Deborah moved to Cumberland, Maine, with her parents and brother as a young child and attended the Cumberland School system and graduated from The Waynflete School in Portland. She attended Wellesley College and Columbia

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President's Remarks

As President of the Bayside Neighborhood Association, I am excited about the city's recent acquisition of the Midtown lots. This development presents a historic opportunity to realize the community's long-standing desire for more green and public open spaces in Bayside. Back in April 2000, the "New Vision for Bayside" detailed the importance of creating accessible parks and open areas that serve as community anchors. Among its key recommendations was the development of "public open space" specifically at the intersection of Chestnut and Somerset Streets—an area that has long yearned for revitalization and gathering places for residents.

Now, with these lots in public hands, we at the BNA are advocating strongly for a well-designed park that aligns with that vision. A thoughtfully planned green space would provide much-needed relief from urban density, offering a safe place for children to play, people to relax, and neighbors to connect. This would serve as a catalyst for community building and would greatly enhance the neighborhood's aesthetic appeal and livability.

Additionally, we are encouraged to hear that Portland Parks, Recreation, and Facilities have funding allocated in the 2026 Capital Improvement Program for a new basketball court in Bayside. This is a significant step toward expanding recreational opportunities in our neighborhood. A new basketball court, integrated into the new park, would support our youth and promote healthy, active lifestyles. It's a tangible example of how investments in green spaces and recreational




facilities can work hand in hand to benefit all residents.

Our vision is clear: these parcels should be transformed into vibrant, accessible recreational spaces that meet the needs of Bayside's diverse community. Green space improves air quality, supports urban wildlife, and fosters social cohesion—making Bayside a better place to live and visit.

We urge city officials to honor the 2000 "New Vision" plan and prioritize this land for a public park that includes amenities like a playground, open lawns, and sports facilities. With the combination of available funding and community support, we believe we can turn these lots into a legacy project—a welcoming, multi-use space that reflects the neighborhood's aspirations and longstanding needs.

Together, let's seize this opportunity to enhance Bayside with a green, inclusive, and vibrant public space that will serve our community for generations to come.

—•— Tom Blackburn 9/20/25
president@baysideportland.org



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BNA Citizens' Trash Brigade on the Go

Under the leadership of Megan Holt with board liaison Rob Sylvain, the Citizens' Trash Brigade had a successful July cleanup in conjunction with the Rubbish! Project. The July 12th event at Lay Day Roasters was well-attended by folks "from away," and the team hopes to continue partnering with the Rubbish! Project in the future. The brigade continues their focused block walks, with recent attention on Oxford Street.

The Annual BNA Fall Community Cleanup was a huge success. This decades-old tradition continues to unite Bayside neighbors in preparing streets and sidewalks for winter, and this year every participant received the new Bayside Business Coupon Card, good for deep discounts at local businesses, including Leavitt & Sons Deli, Two Fat Cats Bakery, Lay Day Coffee Roasters, The Studio Portland, Fortune Teller Tattoo, Cyclebar, Maine Clay Collaborative, Isa Bistro, F45 Training, and Bayside Bowl.

The CTB hosts monthly block walks to pickup trash and/or shovel snow from neglected sidewalks in our neighborhood. To help out please contact
ctb@baysideportland.org



**79 PORTLAND ST.
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PROPRIETARY — BLENDS —

by Peter Markoe

It was a dog day in mid-August when I walked up to Za on Preble St. I had scheduled my interview with Stacy Begin, owner and operator of Two Fat Cats, to coincide with Za's happy hour from 3-5 pm. I'd been thinking about the \$5 slices, apps, drafts, and well drinks all day and was chomping at the bit to hear Stacy's answer to the question on everyone's minds...who are the two Fat Cats?

I was in for a treat—well, not a sweet treat like they serve at Two Fat Cats' two locations, but a red-sauce experience that proved the owners of Za have dedicated themselves to the craft of savory pies. When I heard this family-owned shop was taking over the old Slab joint, I couldn't wait for my interview with Stacy to try it. I ordered a large pepperoni with mushrooms for a family pizza night. The dough was fresh and fluffy, while the char cups were a perfectly molded vehicle for that spicy, classic flavor.

Back to Jack and Lily, the original two Fat Cats. Stacy took over the bakery over 14 years ago when it was still on India Street, and where the pair of felines had resided. She had been working in the nonprofit space, but when her passion project of running a bakery gained traction, she decided to make the move to a brick-and-mortar establishment. Bayside (and the greater Portland area) is grateful that she leaned in.



As our orders came out, I asked Stacy what her favorite items to bake are. It was an easy answer—any pie that included raspberry. If you've had one of Stacy's pies, or any item on the Two Fat Cats menu for that matter, you can taste the decades of experience and care that go into the bakery's goods. Stacy is humble, though, adding that the Italian butter cream frosting (an assuredly complex cooking process) still delivers the thrill of a challenging recipe.



TWO FAT CATS
B A K E R Y

Wednesdays - Saturdays, 7:30am-4pm
Sundays 9am-3pm
195 Lancaster Street
Portland, ME 04101
BAYSIDE
(207) 347 5144
info@twofatcatsbakery.com

These meatballs are delicious, I thought, as Stacy explained the temperature control aspects of creating the perfect frosting. There was a juicy tang that exploded with each bite I carved from the dish. The sauce was rich with that classic Italian umami, and the last few morsels I was able to resist devouring were gone the instant they hit my 18-month-old's plate back home.



Two Fat Cats is no longer on India Street; they moved to Bayside (more specifically, Lancaster between Preble and Elm) in 2020. This location operates as the main bakery. In its cafe, you can find locals of all walks enjoying their coffees and pastries throughout the day. Last November, they expanded to another location in the West End, on Spring Street. This location carries the bakery's treats as well as breakfast, sandwiches, and soups. I ordered the tuna melt the next day for lunch and have been thinking about its perfect level of spiciness and pickled onions ever since (coincidentally, I felt the same way about Za's meatballs).

Memories are one of the main inspirations Stacy draws from in her baking. Whether it's the use of seasonal ingredients like pumpkin in the fall or replicating her aunt's chocolate chip cookie recipe, she wants the customer to reminisce and elate in the simple joys of life. After speaking with Stacy for only a few minutes, I could tell that she herself lives in

(continued on page 5)

Stacy's Recipes

Apple Blackberry Quickbread

A great combination of late season berries, early apples and fall spices. This bread can also be made in two smaller loaf pans.

- 1 cup sugar
- ½ cup oil
- 2 eggs
- 2 cups all purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- ¼ tsp nutmeg
- 1 cup apples, peeled, cored & chopped
- ½ cup blackberries
- 2 -3 TBSP Sanding sugar (raw or coarse sugar), optional

Grease a large loaf pan with cooking spray. Pre-heat the oven to 350. Cream together the sugar, oil and eggs with a stand mixer or electric hand mixer for about 2-3 minutes. The mixture should look light and fluffy. In a separate large bowl, mix together flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, and nutmeg. Add the creamed mixture to the dry ingredients and mix until just combined. Fold in the apples and blackberries until just evenly distributed. This takes only a few seconds. Pour batter into the greased loaf pan and spread evenly in the pan. Sprinkle 2 -3 TBSP sanding sugar over the top of each loaf. Bake the loaf for 50-60 minutes in pre-heated oven until golden and no crumbs cling to a toothpick or skewer when inserted into the middle of the cake.

Let cool, remove from loaf pan and enjoy!



Bayside Business Spotlight



Fortune Teller Tattoo is celebrating six wonderful years in Bayside!

Much has changed since owners Ivan Hess, Alex Passapera, and Laura Cui first signed their lease at 82 Hanover in Spring of 2019. After many hours of painting, building, and design, the tattoo shop opened its doors to the public the following September. We all know what happened next - shutdowns, mandates, new protocols - and like most businesses at the time, Fortune Teller came face-to-face with change.

With change comes growth though, and the shop is now home to eight talented artists, all with different styles, techniques, and backgrounds. Fortune Teller maintains a safe and welcoming environment where all are welcome. Whether you're looking for an elegant floral arrangement or a dinosaur on a skateboard, FTT's artists will take great care of you. Also, there are snacks!

Fortune Teller Tattoo is at 82 Hanover Street in Bayside, Portland, Maine
Instagram: @fortunetellerportland
Website: fortunetellertattoo.com

Bonus haiku:

Time for a tattoo

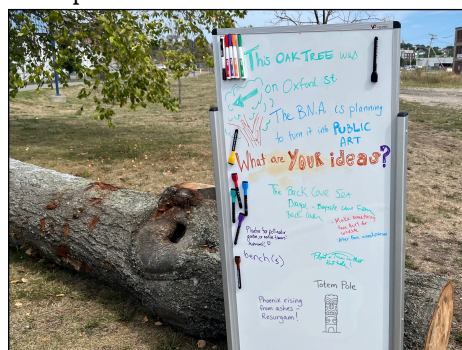
Come get some art and a snack

At Fortune Teller



Oxford Street Oak to Become Public Art

The BNA Public Art Team, led by 82Parris Gallery Director Kincaid Pearson, is forming a plan to create something positive from the unfortunate loss of a mature shade tree in the heart of Bayside. This heritage-sized oak tree was cut down to make way for a new housing development at Oxford and Elm Streets. The



BNA partnered with Reveler Development and the city arborist to reserve a large part of the trunk for a public art project to be funded in part by Reveler and administered by the BNA. For more information contact the BNA Art Team at arts@baysideportland.org —•—

Trees (cont. from page 1)

Many trees on the Bayside Trail were killed when a huge encampment took over the trail after the COVID lockdowns. After the encampment was removed in 2023, Parks & Recreation replanted a number of saplings along the trail. These saplings were embraced and celebrated during this event. Participants looked forward to the day when the area contains a mature forest supplying shade, air cleansing, wildlife habitat and beauty to the neighborhood. Thanks to city arborist Mark Reilland, all those who participated went home with a tree specially selected to thrive in the Bayside neighborhood. Someday a forest will grow in Bayside. —•— AYK



Blends (cont. from page 3)

this happy way. What more could you ask for from your neighborhood baker?

Through the growth and expansion that the Two Fat Cats team has seen—from opening a second location that enables the team to explore new skills and flavors to being sold across the country through Goldbelly—Stacy has prioritized giving back. In addition to volunteering her small business acumen with SCORE, she runs a “Pie-tastic” campaign at Two Fat Cats. Her team travels around Portland each month and delivers pies to local nonprofits, showing appreciation for the valuable services they provide to the community. This initiative is loved by Two Fat Cats employees as much as it is by those who receive the pies.



At Za, our Thursdays had just gotten brighter. To accompany our half-and-half iced teas, we each got a delicious slice. Stacy ordered the Mushroom, a white slice with truffle cream, mozzarella, ricotta, and maitake, topped with fresh basil and parm. A must-try for my next visit, she assured me. I had opted for the day’s special: a red base splattered with zucchini, summer squash, mushrooms, and grilled

onions with a sweet chili sauce...*chefs kiss*... I’m salivating, picturing the Birria Taco and B-sting at my next pizza night.

Speaking of specials, Stacy will be running a “Stock Your Freezer” sale from October 8th to October 31st to celebrate 20 years of Two Fat Cats! It is a frozen pie bundle that includes 1 large chicken pot pie plus your choice of a small, frozen Maine wild blueberry or sour cherry pie for \$49.95. Stay tuned on their social media for updates. You can also catch events like live music and Terrarium building multiple nights a week at Za—their schedule can be found at www.piz-za.net online.

So far, this column has enabled me to meet some amazing Baysiders, new and old. I hope you enjoy reading about these experiences and hopefully get out and create your own within our vibrant neighborhood. —•— PM

Bayside Opportunity Center

The Bayside Neighborhood Association (BNA) has been working to establish a multicultural community center in Bayside for nearly 25 years, but has not been successful—yet. In the spring of 2025 the BNA formed a sister community development corporation, the Bayside Opportunity Center (BOC), with the aim of administering a community center at 72 Parris Street. With that project heading toward a different model that will hopefully come to fruition in later years, the BOC set its sights on a more immediate solution.

The BOC is now negotiating to transform an underutilized building in Bayside into this multicultural community center in hopes of creating a vibrant community hub serving new Mainers, immigrant and refugee families, seniors, and all historically marginalized populations seeking belonging. This people-centered space would provide crucial resources and foster collaboration, empowerment, and shared success.

If successful, the BOC would revitalize the surrounding neighborhood into a safe, bustling area where neighbors connect and small businesses thrive. The area has the potential to become a destination known for diversity and prosperity, with community members empowered to shape their neighborhood’s future. —•—

For more about the BOC please visit www.baysideoc.org



FROM JUNE 18th at 72 PARRIS STREET

Thanks to Deirdre Paul (bottom left) Namory Keita (drums) DJ StackitupSteve and everyone who made the Block Party a great success. Cheese the Day food truck was on point! Plus Bumbleroot Organic Farm donated seedlings to give out, The City Sustainability Office provided the activity kit, Prosperity Maine and Hope Acts set up booths, and Ashton Sylvain did face painting. Special thanks to Justin Alfond and Khadija Ahmed for letting us use the 72 Parris Street parking lot. Bravo! Encore!



BAYSIDE BLOCK PARTY!





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BAYSIDE TRAIL

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PRIMO CUBANO

at the ROOFTOP DECK of BAYSIDE BOWL

Live Music Review by Deirdre Paul



BAYSIDE — FRIDAY AUGUST 15TH.

A few stories above Bayside's hot summer streets crowded with life and its spoils sits Bayside Bowl's world class rooftop deck. With a sweeping view of Portland's other side and the best sunset in town, this place is a gem. On this particular warm August evening, the place was aswirl with live music, sexy dancers and ocean breezes. The band? Those incomparable latin groove masters, Primo Cubano. The vibe is, in so many ways, perfection. The lighting on the deck is soft and glowy, the people are glowy and soft, and everyone is dancing (with a smile on their face), either with a partner or to their own groove. The music sounds so good, and I think to myself, is this really my home town? YES. Honing in on the band is an absolute pleasure. These guys have so much, they are such a good band, and are so fun to watch. The beauty is that as you listen to them, you could be anywhere, including Cuba. They have played there in a festival, (which I think gives

them mad street cred). Wow. They have such a solid groove, and with the whole room moving under a ceiling of sky, the effect is intoxicating. In addition to being great musicians and looking good in summer whites, these guys can really sing. Their three part harmonies knocked me out, one two. The dancing couples with their snazzy latin moves showing off, yes please. A really good margarita and a couple of delicious tacos, food for the soul. It all added up to a perfect summer evening. Thank you Bayside Bowl, and thank you, Primo Cubano, LOS INCOMPARABLES

— — —

Deirdre Paul is a Maine-based songwriter, singer, artist and performer with a studio in Bayside, Portland, Maine

Primo Cubano plays traditional Cuban dance music dating back to the turn of the 20th Century. Son is the most popular style to

come out of Cuba and is the primary contributor to the blend of Latin styles today known as Salsa. It was first a music of the country people and eventually migrated to Havana, where it was urbanized and began to draw a wider audience.

Guitarist **Paul D'Alessio**, a simple-living country man himself, came into contact with this music on a trip to Cuba in 2004 with the Brunswick-Trinidad Sister City Association, a cooperative between Brunswick, ME and the city of Trinidad, Cuba. He began learning to play Son music on a guitar-like instrument native to Cuba called the tres and subsequently formed Primo Cubano, "Cuban Cousin".

Trumpeter **Marc Chillemi** has also spent time in Cuba and has played in various other Latin groups. He also plays percussion and sings on the choruses, or coros, to which the lead singer, or sonero responds with an improvised lyric.

Lenny Hatch has loved the congas since he first heard Mongo Santamaría play Watermelon, and he has been playing them in addition to the bongó and other percussion instruments for over 20 years now.

Eric Winter has been singing all his life and began studying Spanish at the age of 12. He has become particularly interested in Cuban music in the last few years. Eric also plays maracas and is the newest addition to Primo Cubano.

Keeping it all together is **Duane Edwards** on the bass fiddle. He is a graduate of the University of Maine at Augusta and plays in various groups in the area. As a jazz student, he took very quickly to the tumbao bass pattern that makes this music so danceable.



THE STUDIO PORTLAND

A Maine Hub for Music and Storytelling

For decades, The Studio Portland has been a creative anchor for musicians, welcoming both up-and-coming Maine bands and nationally recognized artists. Yet the studio's scope extends far beyond music.

Today, The Studio Portland is also a trusted space for post-production companies from London to Los Angeles, providing voice-over and ADR (automated dialogue replacement), audiobook recording, and podcast production. Recent podcast projects include:

Elegant Maine Living, hosted by realtor Elise Kiely of Legacy Properties Sotheby's International Realty. This series explores Maine's homes, landscapes, and lifestyles. Kiely, who left a legal career in Washington, D.C. for a more intentional life in Maine, brings warmth and curiosity to conversations about what makes life here unique.

Living Your Maine Love, a new podcast from Maine Love, the water company co-founded by 12th-generation Mainer Jen Millard. After years in retail and tech leadership, Millard returned to Maine with a purpose—creating a sustainable, locally rooted brand that cans water from Sebago Lake using idle brewery infrastructure, keeping jobs and resources within the state.

The Progressive Hedonist, hosted by food and culture leader Dana Cowin, was recently nominated for a James Beard Award in Audio Programming. Its debut episode, recorded at The Studio Portland and engineered by Logan MacDonald, featured marine biologist Dr. Ayana Elizabeth Johnson, the Roux



Distinguished Scholar in Environmental Studies at Bowdoin College. Nationally recognized for her climate work, Dr. Johnson discussed how joy, food, and community can inspire action on the climate crisis.

From music to storytelling, The Studio Portland has become a place where artistry and purpose meet—amplifying Maine's voice on both local and global stages. —•—

The Studio Portland is on Casco Street Bayside, Portland, Maine

BAYSIDE BOWL
— PORTLAND, MAINE —

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10/11 **SUPernaut** (BLACK SABBATH / OZZY ERA TRIBUTE)
10/17 **BEARLY DEAD** WITH **SANS SOUCI** (DEAD / JOB TRIBUTE +)
10/31 **MIGHTY MYSTIC** WITH **DOUBLE TIGER** (HALLOWEEN SHOW)
11/5 **THE SAMPLES** WITH **NATE WINTER**
11/14 **BELLA'S BARTOK**
11/15 **ANGELIKAH FAHRAY & KALEN** WITH **DJ MATT PERRY**
12/31 **(ARPE & ZERO GRAVITY) PRESENTS | ALBUM RELEASE SHOW**
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ALL SHOWS | ALL-AGES

Bayside Business Breakfast Club Notes

Led by Stacy Begin with board liaison Betsy Boyd, the Bayside Business Breakfast Club has been busy this summer working on a neighborhood visitors' guide project and has applied for a \$500 micro-grant through the city's sustainability office to complete the project.

The group is encouraging neighbors to use the "See, Click, Fix" app to resolve small quality-of-life issues like broken streetlights and trash while creating documentation of neighborhood concerns. They're also exploring Portland Buy Local's "Local Season" initiative planned for early 2026.

The club has agreed to a new coupon approach for the fall cleanup, moving away from their traditional raffle format. Every cleanup volunteer will receive a valuable Bayside Business Coupon Card featuring deep discounts at participating local restaurants, shops, services, venues, and vendors. The group is also helping bring the Baysider forward through advertising and editorial support.

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THE STUDIO
P O R T L A N D

**MUSIC RECORDING
PODCASTING
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**SOUND DESIGN
AUDIOBOOKS
EDUCATION**

Deb Van Hoewyk

(cont. from page 1)

University for her undergraduate studies and earned a Masters in English from the City University of New York.

Deborah lived in New York City for several years working as a writer and educator. It was here that she undertook the first of what would become a lifelong passion: home renovation. For a time, she lived on a barge in the Hudson River and later a houseboat in the Bronx.

Deborah moved to Michigan and with her husband, John Van Hoewyk, purchased a farm, and raised sheep, pigs, goats and an assortment of cats and dogs. At the same time, she was a lecturer in the College of Engineering at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, teaching technical communications. She retired in 2010.

After retiring, she returned to Maine with her husband living in Portland. In the winter months they resided in Huatulco, Mexico. Later they spent summers in West Bath, Maine. As expected, all their homes just needed a "little" work, which Deborah happily took on.

Deborah had a remarkable ability to build community wherever she lived. In Mexico she volunteered for a local spay/neuter project, helped organize a major annual fund raiser supporting rural schools, and wrote and edited articles for *The Eye*, a local English language monthly. She loved Mexico and used her writing skills to bring the history and culture of Mexico to the English language community. Though a fluent speaker she never stopped taking Spanish lessons.

In Maine, she was a board member of the Western Maine Wellesley Club and The Bayside Neighborhood Association. She used her experience as a grant writer to support several local non-profits. At the time of her death, Deborah and several Bayside residents were developing plans for a community center that would serve, among others, the Portland immigrant community. She was also the unofficial organizer of her high school graduating classes' monthly meet ups.

She was a strong supporter of Charlie's Friends Dog Rescue in Woolwich, Maine. Deborah and John fostered many wonderful dogs awaiting their forever homes.

Deborah was preceded in death by her parents and brother-in-law, Jeffrey Armstrong.

She is survived by her husband of 39 years, John Van Hoewyk, her brother Schuyler S. Sampson, Jr., (Patricia), her sisters Patience Sampson (Robert) and Priscilla Armstrong and her many nieces for whom she had such fondness, Sharon, Samantha, Caroline, Juanita, Janetta, Katherine, Tabor and Schuyler as well as many great nieces and nephews.

Deborah's family would like to thank the staff at Mid Coast Hospital in Brunswick for their compassionate care during her stay.

An outdoor celebration of her life will be held on Saturday October 18, 2025, from 2-4 PM at 359 Fosters Point Road, West Bath ME. Online condolence messages can be submitted at Funeral Alternatives, 46 Bath Road, Brunswick, ME 04011. (funeralalternatives.net)

Please consider making a memorial donation to Rescue Charlie's Friends Dog Rescue, 90 Road B, Woolwich, ME 04579 (rescuecharliesfriends.org) —•—

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Clay**
COLLABORATIVE

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poetry
place

Into My Own by Robert Frost

One of my wishes is that those dark trees,
So old and firm they scarcely show the breeze,
Were not, as 'twere, the merest mask of gloom,
But stretched away unto the edge of doom.

I should not be withheld but that some day
Into their vastness I should steal away,
Fearless of ever finding open land,
Or highway where the slow wheel pours the sand.

I do not see why I should e'er turn back,
Or those should not set forth upon my track
To overtake me, who should miss me here
And long to know if still I held them dear.

They would not find me changed from him they knew—
Only more sure of all I thought was true.

Beautify Bayside? Paint Outside the Box!

by Betsy Boyd

Portland Downtown recently concluded a call for artists for their "Painting Outside the Box" art series. Over the years several artists have creatively made use of City of Portland utility boxes as a unique urban canvas.

This fall five utility boxes will receive chosen designs from the pool of artist submissions. A Selection Committee has been appointed to decide on the winning designs. Often utility boxes are targeted by vandals. This project aims to showcase local artists as well as reduce unsightly graffiti.

One of the utility boxes is in the Bayside neighborhood at the corner of Cumberland and Elm Street. Local visual artist and Bayside Neighborhood Association Public Art Team



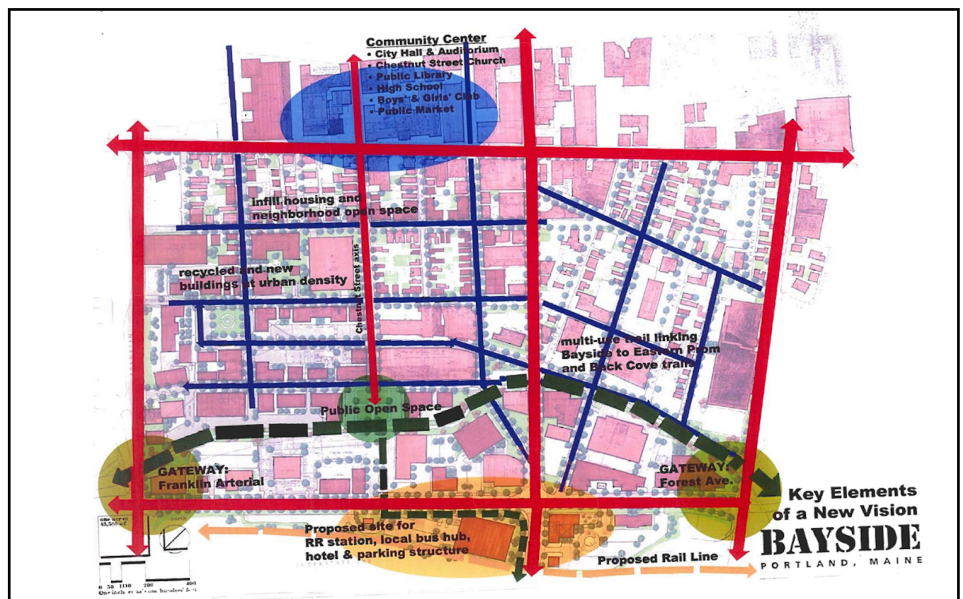
Lead Kincaid Pearson is a representative on the Selection Committee for 2025. He is a co-director of 82 Parris Gallery in Bayside.

Artists will receive \$750 to cover materials and compensation. Selected artists will be notified by the end of September. More utility boxes might be painted next year. If so, Portland Downtown will announce details in the summer of 2026. —•—

Betsy Boyd represents Portland Downtown as an organizational seat on the board of the Bayside Neighborhood Association. for more information contact betsy@portlandmaine.com

Left: Kerrin Parkinson at the corner of Pearl Street and Cumberland Avenue in 2021
— Photo by Jay York

Right: A page from the April 2000 Portland city planning department report called *A New Vision for Bayside* showing a plan for "Public Open Space" in the center of the Midtown Property. The full report is available on the City of Portland website.



WANT TO HELP MAKE THE BAYSIDER?

We're looking for a volunteer who is proficient with a Mac to help produce *The Baysider*.

Is that you?

(Expect about 3-4 hours of fun work every three months.)

Interested? Email baysider@baysideportland.org and let's talk.



—Councilor's Corner—

by Sarah Michniewicz

Happy Fall! A lot is happening on the council that touches Bayside - we passed a commercial vacancy ordinance to revitalize Congress Street storefronts, supported a resolution against against detentions near schools, and hit pause on a music venue to optimize potential parking.

And on September 29 we started talking about what to do with the Midtown properties, the embroiled, blighted lots so crucial to Bayside's future. The empty land was tied up in plans that never materialized. Now, after the City's settlement with Federated Properties, those lots are finally back under local control. That means we, together, get to imagine what comes next.

What excites me most is the chance to shape a Bayside that reflects our values. We need housing that people here can actually afford; spaces that lift us up; and crucially - a green park where kids can play, neighbors can meet, and events can create community in the shade of healthy trees on a hot day. A real, purposeful greenspace that makes our neighborhood healthier and more welcoming.

This is a turning point for Portland, and Bayside is at the heart of it. Let's use this moment to create something new that feels like home. —•—

Sarah Michniewicz is the Portland City Councilor for District One, which includes Bayside.

About the Bayside Neighborhood Association (BNA)

Bounded by Forest Avenue, Franklin Arterial, Interstate 295, and Congress Street, Bayside is situated in the heart of the peninsula as Portland's gateway to downtown. Today, it is a vibrant mix of families and singles, young and old, New Mainers and old-timers, historic architecture and new development, social services, shops, restaurants, and small businesses.

The BNA was founded in 1998 and seeks to represent all those with a vested interest in the Bayside neighborhood. The Bayside Neighborhood Association empowers the Bayside community by building meaningful partnerships that promote health, safety, green spaces, diversity, housing, and sustainable development for all who live, work, and play in this unique urban neighborhood.

The BNA board has monthly meetings the first Tuesday of the month at 6pm, which are always open to the public. It's a great way to hear about what is happening in the neighborhood. They alternate between virtual (Zoom) and in-person at the Steve Hirshon Community Room at Unity Village at 24 Stone Street.

BNA Teams meet at various times. You don't have to be on the BNA board to be on, or even lead a team! Check the website for more info www.baysideportland.org



Community Contacts

Government

Portland City Hall (207) 874-8300
389 Congress St. | portlandmaine.gov

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mdion@portlandmaine.gov

Sarah Michniewicz, Dist. 1 City Councilor

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Pious Ali, City Councilor At-Large

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Ben Grant, City Councilor At-Large

bgrant@portlandmaine.gov

Rep. Yusuf M. Yusuf, State House Dist. 118

yusufyusuf@legislature.maine.gov

Sen. Rachel Talbot-Ross, State Senate Dist. 28

rachel.talbotross@legislature.maine.gov

Police Department

Emergencies: 911

Non-emergency Dispatch — 207-874-8575

MIDTOWN COMMUNITY POLICING CENTER

26 Portland Street — 207-772-1373

Coordinator Jennifer Rogers

jrogers@portlandmaine.gov

Senior Lead Officer Dan Knight:

danielk@portlandmaine.gov

Community Services

Portland 311 (SeeClickFix)

seeclickfix.com/portland_2/report

Maine Crisis Hotline call or text 988

heretohelpmaine.com

Social services information call or text 211

211maine.org

JOIN IN!

Shared experiences build the relationships, friendships, and trust that are the bonds of a strong community. Join one of the BNA's teams today to meet your neighbors and help your neighborhood.

The Baysider Team

baysider@baysideportland.org

Development Team (Planning board watch)

development@baysideportland.org

Safe Streets Team

safestreets@baysideportland.org

Welcome Team (Helping recent arrivals)

welcome@baysideportland.org

Citizens' Trash Brigade

ctb@baysideportland.org

Trees & Greens Team

greenteam@baysideportland.org

Community Garden

garden@baysideportland.org

Public Art Team

arts@baysideportland.org

Business Breakfast Club

breakfastclub@baysideportland.org

DONATE TO THE BNA

The Bayside Neighborhood Association needs your help, and now is a great time to give.

An anonymous benefactor has offered to match every contribution up to \$2,500 until the end of the year.

Will you help us take advantage of this generous offer? Thank you!



Use your phone's camera to scan the QR code above or go to givebutter.com/BNA25

The BNA is a 501c(3) non-profit organization. Qualified donations are tax-deductible.

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