pdx|parent

for the long days and short years

WELCOME GUIDE

2021

Visiting? New to PDX?

Your family's ultimate Portland resource!

OREGON ZOO

NEW HABITATS NOW OPEN

Masks required in indoor areas
Reserve timed-entry tickets at **oregonzoo.org**

French American International School

LANGUAGE IMMERSION | INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB) | PRESCHOOL – 8TH GRADE

Do you want your child to develop deeper understanding of other cultures and empathy for different perspectives?

Discover why immersion is so much more than learning another language... and why families choose FAIS: the longest-established immersion school in Portland.

LIMITED OPENINGS FOR PRESCHOOL-KINDERGARTEN!

BACK FOR IN-PERSON CLASSES ALL GRADES, ALL DAY, ALL WEEK

We're still unable to host visitors -- so let us bring FAIS to you:

- Register for a group virtual visit
- Watch videos on immersion and the IB
- View a campus photo tour
- Schedule a 1:1 Zoom meeting

faispdx.org/VirtualAdmissionsCenter

"This school is amazing. Teachers are all native speakers, academic rigor is the norm, and it is truly a mind-expanding experience for children.

- FAIS parent

admissions@faispdx.org | 503.292.7776 ext. 1310 | www.faispdx.org

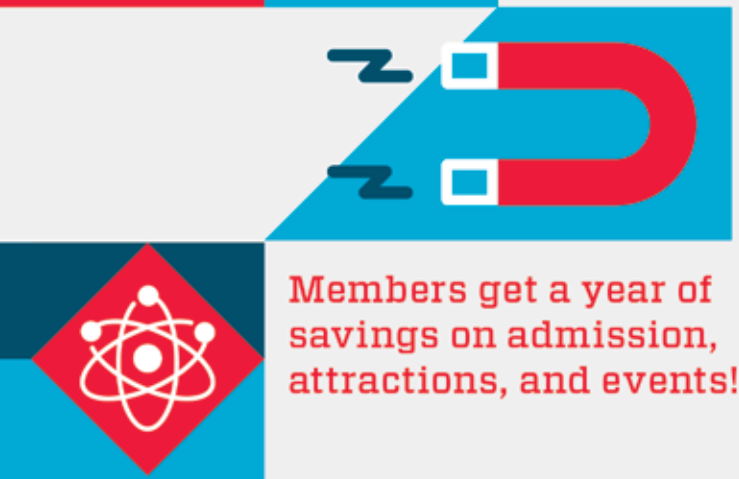
CELEBRATE SCIENCE

Become an OMSI Member

OMSI is grateful that science is leading the way as more people start to welcome back in-person events and activities.

Show your support for science by becoming an OMSI member.

Visit omsi.edu/membership



Members get a year of savings on admission, attractions, and events!

OMSI

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A helpful map to find many of the locations mentioned throughout the issue! Sponsored by OnPoint Credit Union.

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If you are new to Portland — or only vaguely remember exploring the city with your kids — this story is for you! Our long-weekend itinerary packs in the family fun. Plus the top smash-burger joints! By Denise Castañon.

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Once upon a time, we went out to festivals and fairs and events perfect for kids and their grown-ups. Those days will be back, so here's a reminder of the fun on the horizon! By Miranda Rake.

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It's hard to capture the essence of a school in a number. By Shasta Kearns Moore.

Kids ❤️ Adventure 46
From the coast to the high desert, find ideas for family-friendly getaways and recommendations for dining, accommodations, activities and more.

ERIN J. BERNARD

Welcome to the Neighborhood

Grumbling about rising home prices seems to have become quite the pastime for many Portland residents. (In fact, I experienced the jet-fueled housing market firsthand while selling and buying a home this year). But as a 16-year transplant myself, I can hardly complain about newcomers moving here. Portland may be experiencing growing pains as housing prices skyrocket and many people find themselves without a safe place to live, but don't buy the sensationalized stories that Portland is only changing for the bad. As parents, we know that when our kids grow, these changes bring new struggles, but ultimately new successes. So, in the long run, more people will bring more talent, creativity and diversity to our city. Think of it as more friends for our kids to play with.

NANCY MINOUI

Despite these growing pains, Portland remains a phenomenal spot for a family vacay and a place to raise kids. Portland is easily accessible, boasts charming neighborhoods across all quadrants and is home to numerous beautiful nature areas. Arts and culture, unbeatable restaurants and fabulous attractions are at the fingertips of not just young singles, but also families with young children. You'll find all of that in this year's Welcome Guide.

And I hope new residents will join longtime Oregonians to work on making our city a better place to live, especially for marginalized communities. Where to start? These hard-working nonprofits could use some help right now: Portland Homeless Family Solutions, Blanchet House, p:ear and Human Solutions. Cook a meal, donate diapers or give money if you are in a financial position to do so. Or get your kids in on the action with the Summers Family Community Project, which we recently highlighted: *pdxparent.com/good-deeds-helping-the-unhoused.*

Neighbors helping neighbors is the way it should be.

-Denise

On Our Cover:
Local mama and photographer **Irene Tejaratchi Hess** captured this happy shot of our editor's kids chowing down at the über-popular and kid-friendly Portland Mercado food carts. Find more dining recommendations throughout the issue! And see more of Irene's amazing work at *irenehess.com.*

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EVERYONE NEEDS TO EXPLORE SEASIDE'S PROM CENTENNIAL!

Can you find the reasons?
There's lots to see and do!

P	U	B	R	S	Q	B	K	E	S	F	G	B	H	Z	S
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SEE:

- SALT WORKS
- TERRIBLE TILLY
- GRAY WHALES
- FAMOUS TURNAROUND
- SAND DOLLARS
- BALD EAGLES
- SUNSETS

DO:

- BIKE
- SWING
- KITE FLY
- HIKE
- KAYAK
- GELATO
- SELFIES

If you're searching for some fun come help us celebrate the Centennial of the Seaside Prom! That's right, it's been 100 years since our grand Promenade first graced a mile and a half of our beachfront.

You'll find lots to see and do and our Wi-Fi works great for any online school or work. Oh, and be sure to pick up your Centennial Booklet full of treasure hunts, trivia and four chances to win an epic Seaside getaway!

SeasideProm.com

This map is brought to you by OnPoint Community Credit Union, their purpose is to build strong communities by supporting financial growth and well-being, one person at a time. Find their convenient locations as your family is out and about in Portland!

1. **NW 27th & Vaughn,** 2688 NW Vaughn St.
2. **Stadium,** 2011 W Burnside St.
3. **SW 5th & Harvey Milk,** 517 SW Harvey Milk St.
4. **Hillsdale,** 6367 SW Capitol Hwy.
5. **Beaverton Town Square,** 11425 SW Beaverton Hillsdale Hwy, Beaverton, OR
6. **Beaverton,** 2755 SW Cedar Hills Blvd., Suite 100, Beaverton, OR
7. **158th & Walker,** 15995 SW Walker Rd., Beaverton, OR
8. **North Lombard,** 5262 N Lombard St.
9. **Fremont & Williams,** 16 NE Fremont St.
10. **Lloyd Center,** 1720 NE 9th Ave.
11. **Hollywood,** 3030 NE Weidler St.
12. **Rose City,** 6901 NE Sandy Blvd.
13. **205 Place,** 9730 SE Washington St.
14. **67th and Glisan,** 6615 NE Glisan St.
15. **Hawthorne,** 3404 SE Hawthorne Blvd.
16. **Woodstock,** 4515 SE Woodstock Blvd.
17. **Sellwood,** 8085 SE 13th Ave.

SUSAN BARD

KING
NORTHEAST ALBERTA STREET
SALT & STRAW
9
K"UNAMOKWST PARK
12
10
11
14
13
OREGON RAIL HERITAGE CENTER
15
OMSI
FIND the FUN
PORTLAND MERCADO
SELLWOOD - MORELAND
16
OAKS PARK
WESTMORELAND PARK
17

Additional OnPoint Community Credit Union locations

14733 SW Teal Blvd.
Beaverton, OR

2457 SW Cherry Park Rd.
Troutdale, OR

9460 SW Wilsonville Rd., Ste. 101
Wilsonville, OR

16798 SW Edy Rd., Ste. 118
Sherwood, OR

6495 SE Tualatin Valley Hwy.
Hillsboro, OR

2497 SE Burnside Rd.
Gresham, OR

16625 SE 362nd Dr.
Sandy, OR

1754 NW Civic Dr.
Gresham, OR

6300 SW Meadows Rd.
Lake Oswego, OR

7130 NE Cornell Rd.
Hillsboro, OR

8854 SE Sunnyside Rd.
Clackamas, OR

17055 SE Sunnyside Rd., Ste. 126
Happy Valley, OR

2915 SE Oak Grove Blvd.
Milwaukie, OR

16020 SE Mill Plain Blvd., Ste. 109
Vancouver, WA

6711 NE 63rd St.
Vancouver, WA

2615 NE 112th Ave.
Vancouver, WA

800 NE Tenny Rd.
Vancouver, WA

7700 NE Hwy. 99
Vancouver, WA

611 W Columbia Way
Vancouver, WA

For a complete list visit:
onpointcu.com/locations-atms

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Locations: Beaverton • Tigard • NW Portland • Happy Valley: Johnson Creek & Sunnyside • Gresham

Visit MetroPediatrics.com or call 1-833-PDX-KIDS to become a Metro Pediatrics patient today!

The Ultimate Portland Weekend With Kids

Get reacquainted with your old favorites and find some new spots to explore.

BY DENISE CASTAÑON

If your family is like my family, you probably haven't been out much. But as the vaccines are rolling out and COVID-19 case counts drop, more and more places are opening back up, and people are cautiously venturing out. We know it's not "back to normal" just yet, but these spots are open now with precautions in place and are ready for exploring. Whether you're just visiting, new to Portland or have lived here all your life, you could probably use this refresher on what's out there for families. Pick and choose what sounds fun for your family — or try to knock out a whole long weekend's worth of fun!

SATURDAY:

8:30 am The **Portland Farmers Market** at Portland State University is a cornucopia of locally grown goodness. Grab a breakfast burrito from **Enchanted Sun** or a pastry from **Twisted Croissant** for your first meal. Then walk around and gaze at gorgeous produce or pick up edible souvenirs such as hot sauce, honey and hazelnuts. The South Park Blocks at SW Park and Montgomery.

MIRANDA RAKE

10 am Walk over to the **Portland Art Museum** to see more than 100 images from acclaimed landscape photographer Ansel Adams. **Pro tip:** Reserve a specific entry time prior to your visit, at *portlandartmuseum.org*. (Free admission for kids 17 and younger!) 1219 SW Park Ave.

©THE ANSEL ADAMS PUBLISHING RIGHTS TRUST/MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON

Westside Wonders

Noon Brunch on a breakfast sando or crush a Korean fried chicken sandwich from **Toki** (James Beard nominee Peter Cho and family's new spot), 580 SW 12th Ave. Or the housemade pasta is always a hit at **Grassa**, 1205 SW Washington St. (**Pro tip:** They will do plain noodles with butter if that is as adventurous as your kid gets.)

SHERVIN HESS

1 pm The littles might need a nap, but families with bigger kids can head to the **Oregon Zoo**. Make sure to check out the polar bears' brand-new home, Polar Passage, which recently opened to the public. **Pro tip:** Reserve a time slot well in advance. The limited, timed entry makes for a super-enjoyable experience! 4001 SW Canyon Rd., *oregonzoo.org*.

3 pm While you're in Washington Park, hike around the **Hoyt Arboretum**, 4000 SW Fairview Blvd., or stop to smell the blooms at the **International Rose Test Garden,** 400 SW Kingston Ave.

DENISE CASTAÑON

4 pm Browse the stacks at **Powell's City of Books**. Stare in wonder at the size of the Rose Room that houses the kids' books! 1005 W Burnside St.

DENISE CASTAÑON

5 pm Sample **Verde Cocina's** gluten-free menu of fresh, healthy Mexican dishes under one of its outdoor cabanas. 1131 NW Hoyt St.

SUNDAY: *Inner*

TREVOR PARKER

8 am The kids are hungry. Stop at **Pine State Biscuits** for over-the-top breakfast sandwiches (we're looking at you, Reggie Deluxe) or just plain biscuits with honey. **Pro tip:** Order at *pinestatebiscuits.com* to skip the wait in line. Also, its covered, heated outdoor seating is open. 1100 SE Division St.

9 am The neighborhood immediately around Pine State Biscuits is home to some truly fun public art. Take a stroll and see if you can find the geisha with "growing" hair, the giant banana and miniature bronze statues.

OMSI

10 am Reserve a spot for **OMSI's** new exhibit, Dinosaurs Revealed, then explore other open parts of the museum. 1948 SE Water Ave. *Omsi.edu.*

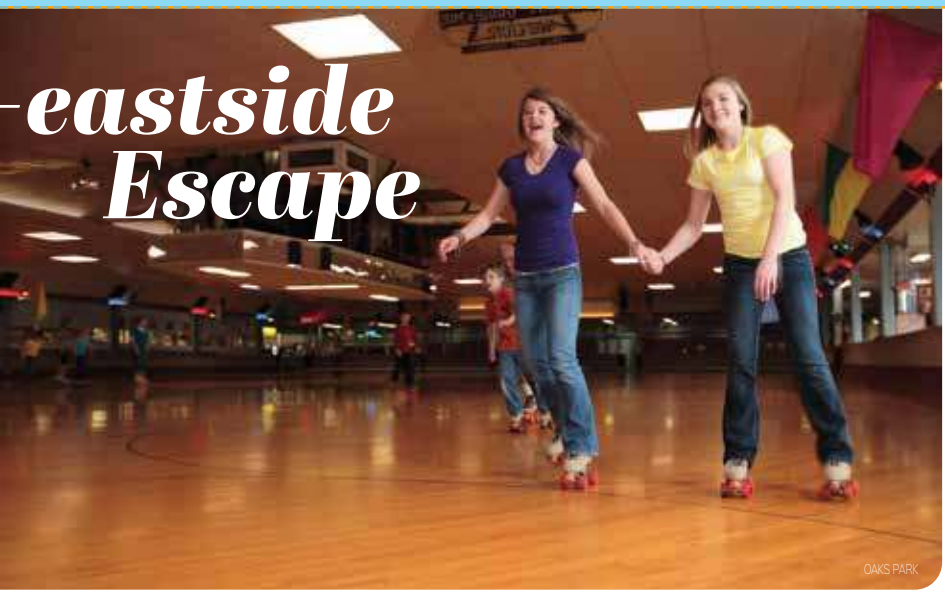
Noon If you're not still stuffed from breakfast, sample the Asian fusion at **Boke Bowl** — think steamed buns stuffed with fried chicken and duck confit ramen. **Pro tip:** Boke Bowl offers kid-specific options! (Do a car picnic if indoor dining is not available!) 1028 SE Water Ave.

1 pm The recently reopened **Oregon Rail Heritage Center** is a train lover's dream come true. Gawk at three steam locomotives — two are functioning and one is being restored. The center is run by volunteers and admission is free, but donations are appreciated. 2250 SE Water Ave., *orhf.org.*

Going to the Oregon Rail Heritage Center on a Saturday? Your family can take a short, round-trip train ride on the Oregon Pacific Railroad. Tickets at *portlandtrainrides.com.*

OREGON RAIL HERITAGE CENTER

-eastside Escape



OAKS PARK

3 pm Maybe it's nap time. Or maybe your family is ready for a snack and more exploring. Find yummy pastries at **Grand Central Bakery**, 7987 SE 13th Ave., or bubble tea at **Tea Chai Té**, 7983 SE 13th Ave. Then explore the **Sellwood-Moreland** neighborhood. Some ideas: Window shop along Southeast 13th Avenue — mixed in with the antique stores you'll find family-favorite shops including **Oodles** toy store and **Cloud Cap Games**. **Westmoreland nature playground** is a destination park. Or reserve a time for roller-skating at **Oaks Amusement Park**, *oakspark.com*.

5 pm Stay in Sellwood for dinner. Outdoor dining options include: old-school Italian at **Gino's**, 8051 SE 13th Ave., or crunchy fried chicken, salads, burgers and homemade ice cream at **Holler**, 7119 SE Milwaukie Ave. Or grab a pie from **Sunny's Pizza** to go, 7738 SE 13th Ave.

DENISE CASTAÑON

MONDAY: Northeastern

DENISE CASTANON

8 am **Pip's Original Doughnuts & Chai** is calling your name. Try each variety of these mini-doughnuts. (And if it's your birthday, you get a free dozen!) 4759 NE Fremont St.

9 am Run off that sugar rush at **K^{h}unamokwst Park**. The amazing playground and path through the park were designed so kids of all abilities could play to their hearts' content. 5200 NE Alberta St.

10 am Stroll down **Northeast Alberta Street** between 11th and 31st avenues. You'll find everything from high-fashion boutiques to art-supply shops to yarn and fabric stores — not to mention restaurants galore. And you'll want to fill your feed with photos in front of the prolific street art. (For a mural map, check out *pdxstreetart.org*.) And don't miss the **Black Heritage Markers** that share the important history of the Black community in the area.

PORTLAND PARK & RECREATION

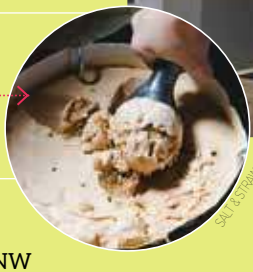
MICHELLE CAREW

& Northwestern Notables

SALT & STRAW

Noon For lunch, veggie options abound at **The Bye and Bye**, 1011 NE Alberta St. (Yes, it's a bar, but kiddos are allowed in the outdoor seating area until 8 pm!) Or try the thin-crust slices at **Bella Pizza** for a quick bite, 2934 NE Alberta St.

1 pm Did you save room for ice cream? There's a **Salt & Straw** on Alberta. 2035 NE Alberta St.


SALT & STRAW

2:30 pm Head over to the **Lower Macleay** trailhead (2960 NW Upshur St.) to explore Forest Park. A little less than a mile in, this hike rewards kids with a chance to play in an old stone house known as the **Witch's Castle**. You can connect to other more challenging trails if your family is up for a true hike.

DENISE CASTAÑON

5 pm Explore **Slabtown** for dinner. Grab sandwiches or a light salad — and decadent French pastries — at **St. Honoré Bakery**, 2335 NW Thurman St. Or hit **Breakside Brewery's** outdoor dining space for award-winning brews and highly rated pub fare, 1570 NW 22nd Ave.

6 pm You started the day with doughnuts — end it the same way. Most Portlanders have their own niche shop they prefer, but hitting up the "Old Portland" **Voodoo Doughnuts** at 22 SW 3rd Ave. reminds you who started Portland's love affair with doughnuts to begin with.

Editor Denise Castañon loves exploring Portland's family-friendly dining scene with her husband, 8-year-old daughter and 6-year-old son.

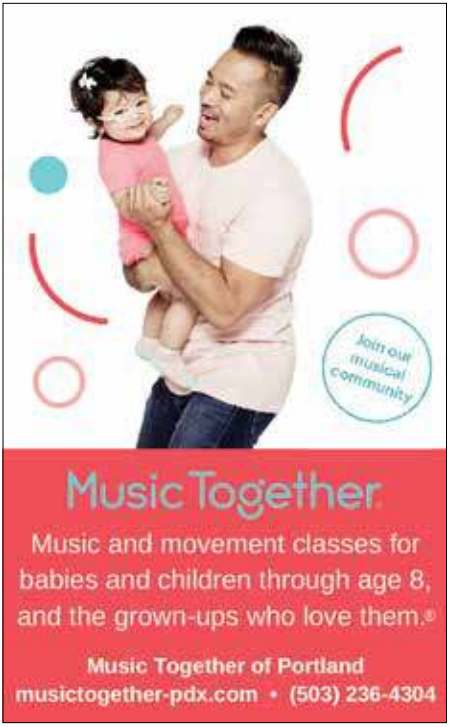
TOP 5 ...

SMASH BURGERS

Beef patties smashed into a screaming-hot griddle resulting in a crunchy crust? Count us in. The smash-burger craze is in full swing in Portland. Try one of these outstanding spots to feed your family's burger craving.

1 The **Burger Stevens** cart was ahead of the trend. And the thin patties topped with melty cheese still rank as some of the city's best. *Burgerstevens.com.* 2 With its fun fright-night theme, **Monster Smash**, a cart behind Belmont Station, flings scarily good burgers and yummy, salty fries with garlic aioli. *Facebook.com/monstersmashpdx.* 3 For a spicy spin, hit up **Güero** for a smash burger with jalapeños and chipotle mayo. *Guerotortas.com.* 4 Open Thursday to Sunday, popular **Mid City Smash Burger** consistently sells out, so plan to get there early! It has shakes, too. *@midcitysmashburger* on Instagram. 5 **Union Burger** at Park the Carts on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard offers a slightly thicker patty with a tasty crust — like a burger you'd find at a great backyard barbecue. The heavily breaded, diner-style onion rings satisfy all your crunch cravings. *Unionburgerpdx.com.*

— Denise Castañon



Cedarwood isn't just a school.

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Cedarwood students are curious and engaged critical thinkers and doers who care about creating a better world. Children in pre-kindergarten through grade 8 are nurtured by a developmentally thoughtful pedagogy, with hands-on experiences both in the classroom and off-campus.

Located just minutes from downtown Portland, Oregon, in the historic Lair Hill Neighborhood, Cedarwood Waldorf School's curriculum weaves together the arts, academics and movement to bring learning to life.

From early childhood through the completion of eighth grade, our students are met with openness to possibility, given time to develop resiliency, and taught skills to turn challenges into opportunities.

Cedarwood is an independent school founded on the principles of Waldorf education.

Cedarwood offers pre-kindergarten through grade 8 classes, as well as opportunities for parents with very young children to come together to better navigate the early childhood experience. Just as Rudolf Steiner envisioned Waldorf as an education for every child, we honor diversity and actively seek opportunities to learn from all cultures and traditions.

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German International School

www.gspdx.org

Enrolling German and Chinese Track
Two years old- 5th grade

a Year of Fun

January

Mochitsuki Portland's celebration of Japanese and Japanese-American culture is a winter bright spot. From origami classes to mochi-making to flower-arranging workshops, the Mochitsuki Festival's schedule of events brims with hands-on activities for kids of all ages. Typically the end of January. *Mochipdx.org*

February

Worst Day of the Year Ride Grab your helmet and your Muddy Buddy, and hit the roads! Kids under 12 ride for free, and there's no better way to pass the dreary February days than dreaming up a winner for the weather-themed costume contest. *Worstdayride.com*

Portland Winter Light Festival Bringing light to dark winter nights, this unique, illuminated nighttime event managed to adapt to COVID by sprinkling installations throughout neighborhoods. If lighting up our dark winters wasn't enough, the Willamette Light Brigade, a nonprofit arts organization who puts on the festival, doesn't charge admission. Typically the first two weekends in February. *Pdxwlf.com*

Chinese New Year Events at Lan Su Garden The Lan Su Garden is the place to ring in the Lunar New Year! Downtown's peaceful Chinese garden hosts a two-week festival of fun that includes a slew of family-friendly events from lion dances to scavenger hunts. *Gong xi fa cai*! Typically held the two weeks surrounding the Lunar New Year. *Lansugarden.org/things-to-do/events/chinese-new-year*

We're looking forward to the time when we can take full advantage of all the family-friendly events Portland has to offer! Here's a month-by-month reminder of some awesome events we've enjoyed in the past. Please check closer to the date of the event so see whether it is on for 2021 or plans to resume in 2022. BY MIRANDA RAKE

March

Portland St. Patrick's Day Parade A 30-year tradition, this homespun parade welcomes spring with marching bands, classic cars and costumes galore. It's a low-key parade that still features plenty of fun. Typically the Sunday before St. Patrick's Day. *Portlandstpaddysparade.com*

Wooden Shoe Tulip Festival Drive just 30 minutes down I-5 and you'll be awash in 40 colorful acres of tulips and more than 100 acres of farmland — a bucolic setting for an Instagram-worthy day of fresh air and flowers. Don't miss the kids' area, which features cow train rides through the flower fields, rubber duck races and pony rides. If you're lucky and the weather is just right, you might even catch another colorful display — hot air balloons fly frequently over the fields. Early March to early May. *Woodenshoe.com*

DENISE CASTANON

April

Oregon Zoo Rabbit Romp Aimed at the 10-and-under crowd, this Easter tradition is much-beloved for good reason. Head to the zoo for candy hunting, contests, animal meet-and-greets and photos with the Easter bunny. Typically the weekend before Easter. *Oregonzoo.org/events/rabbit-romp-0*

May

Dozer Day Hosted by The Nutter Foundation, Dozer Day in Vancouver, Washington, is just about every toddler's dream come true — and that's the whole idea. Kids get to experience life at an active construction site, and sit (safely) in the driver seat of some of their favorite earth-moving vehicles. Typically on a weekend in the middle of the month. *Vancouver.dozerday.org*

Sunday Parkways Begins For five Sundays — one per month from May to September — the city closes off a set of bike-friendly streets to allow cyclists a chance to cruise through town without worrying about cars. Routes end in public parks, where a few food and drink vendors are usually available to help you refuel and refresh before hopping back on your bike. *Portland.gov/sunday-parkways*

SUNDAY PARKWAYS

June

The Rose Festival For more than 100 years, the Rose Festival has heralded the arrival of summer. Whether your kids are participating in the Fred Meyer Junior Parade, hope to catch a glimpse of the Rose Queen at the Grand Floral Parade, or just want to spend a few hours on the ferris wheel at Tom McCall Waterfront Park, there's no shortage of fun to be had. Typically featuring events throughout the month of June. The Grand Floral Parade is always the second Saturday after Memorial Day, and will return in all of its glory in 2022. In the meantime, check out the Porch Parade! *Rosefestival.org*

July

The Big Float A brainchild of Portland's Human Access Project, which is devoted to encouraging locals to connect more deeply with the Willamette River, the Big Float is irresistible. Grab your SPF and favorite inner tubes, and join the flotilla! Put in at Poet's Beach under the Marquam Bridge, and float along with the flow of the river. The fun continues with live music and food carts at a beachy after-party at Tom McCall Bowl Beach. Postponed until 2022. *Thebigfloat.com*

Waterfront Blues Festival Kids under 12 enjoy this massive outdoor music festival for free, and if they're not ready to tune into the main-stage headliners quite yet, not to worry! The designated kids' area is a sure bet for a host of family-friendly activities, crafts and more. This year, a distanced, timed-entry event is planned for Friday to Monday, July 2-5. *Waterfrontbluesfest.com*

August

Providence Bridge Pedal and Stride One of the largest community bike rides in the world, the Bridge Pedal marks an annual opportunity to see the city in a new and unique way! With many of the city's Willamette River bridges closed to car traffic, cyclists and walkers (or strollers) alike can take their time as they take in the views. August 8, 2021. *Providence.org/lp/bridge-pedal*

September

Oktoberfest Oktoberfest might not seem like a kid-friendly event, but before nightfall, many local celebrations welcome families. And most kids will happily munch on a Bavarian pretzel or apple strudel while taking in the music and entertainment. Look for celebrations at Oaks Amusement Park, McMenamins Edgefield and farther afield in Mt. Angel, a town that goes all out for Oktoberfest. Typically in late September.

October

Sellwood Monster March Leaving from Llewellyn Elementary School, this parade of costumed kids and families is a Southeast Portland tradition. Local businesses pass out candy to marchers, so be sure to bring buckets! Sunday before Halloween, 3 pm start time.

Squishing of the Squash and Howloween at the Oregon Zoo Two weekends of seasonal fun include things like a scavenger hunt that directs trick-or-treaters to activity stations throughout the zoo where kids get to pick out candy and earn prizes, all while learning about wildlife. Typically held the two weekends before Halloween. *Oregonzoo.org/events/squishing-squash*

November

Tofurky Trot Does it get much more Portlandia than a Tofurky Trot? Hosted by Northwest VEG, this low-key 5K takes place on Thanksgiving morning at Oaks Park and encourages people of all ages and abilities to join in the costumed good times. *Tofurky.com/trot/tofurky-trot-thanksigiving*

COLUMBIA GORGE MODEL RAILROAD

Columbia Gorge Model Railroad Show If your kids aren't train fanatics yet, a few minutes at this incredible model railroad show will make converts out of them. Intricate displays showcase the work of this legendary local organization. Typically four weekends in November. *Columbiagorgemodelrailroadclub.com*

December

ZooLights Enjoy the zoo by night, all dressed up for the holidays! Ride the zoo train to see animatronic light displays, and end the night with a warming cup of cocoa. (We hope they make it a drive-through event again in 2021!) Open throughout the month of December. *Oregonzoo.org/visit/zoolights*

DENISE CASTAÑON

Oregon Rail Heritage Museum's Holiday Express Historic steam trains, all decked out for Christmas, take travelers on a festive 45-minute ride, complete with cocoa, cookies and Santa Claus. Dates throughout the month of December. *Orhf.org/events/holiday-express*

Winter Wonderland at Portland International Raceway This drive-through light show is a holiday season must. It's the largest of its kind in the Pacific Northwest, and kids will delight in the over-the-top displays. Open throughout the month of December. *Winterwonderlandportland.com*

Christmas Ships A completely volunteer effort, the Christmas Ships is a monthlong series of flotillas of decorated boats. The parades of decorated ships follow different routes throughout December, so it's easy to find one that works for you. Dates throughout December. *Christmasships.org*

Find daily family fun at: *pdxparent.com/events-calendar.*

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PDX PARENT PICKS
NOMINEE
2021

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the CITY GUIDE

Bruce Orr's vibrant mural at Peninsula Station is a joyful celebration of life in St. Johns.

NATALIE GILDERSLEEVE

North: St. Johns
Neighborhood

Plenty of Portlanders are proud of their neighborhoods, but when it comes to community spirit, St. Johns is in a class of its own. Intimate, tucked back and boasting a bustling downtown some locals call "The Village," this neighborhood operates more like its own little town — which indeed it was, briefly, from 1902 to 1915, before being annexed to Portland proper. A walkable, family-oriented atmosphere, a profusion of parks and a roster of beloved annual events, including a parade and jazz festival, round out the neighborhood fun.

"I always wanted to live in St. Johns," says resident Natalie Schraner. "I used to come [here] when I was a kid. My dad would buy work clothes at Jower's — an old men's boot shop — then we'd have a burger somewhere .... It seemed like its own self-sufficient town."

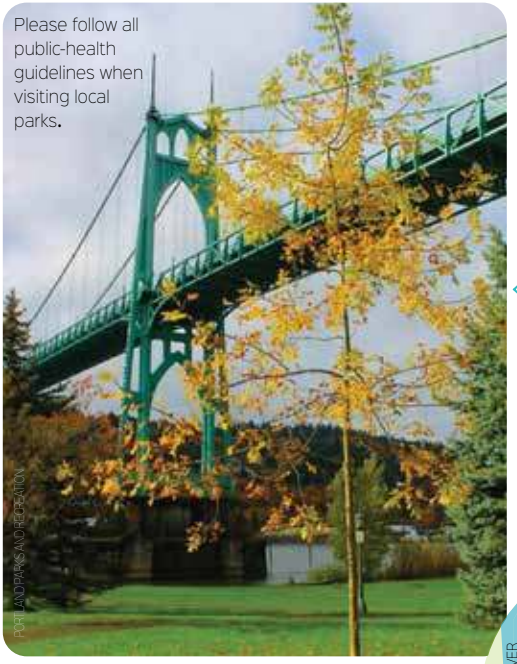
Today, she and her wife, Kala Schraner, are happily raising their two girls — Vesper, 2 ½, and Navy, 6 months.

Gentrification has dramatically reshaped North Portland since her girlhood excursions to the peninsula, but Schraner and her neighbors remain committed to preserving this historic neighborhood's diverse and welcoming vibe. "St. Johns is the people's village, where blue-collared roots run deep," she says. "We have fierce conversations about gentrification — and who lit the latest bottle rocket."

get around

44 Transit score | **64** Walk score | **83** Bike score

SOURCE: WALK SCORE



Please follow all public-health guidelines when visiting local parks.

play here

Located at the peninsular meeting point of the Columbia and Willamette rivers, St. Johns sits at the doorstep of natural wonders galore, including acres of explorable sloughs and wetlands. Sauvie Island is just a hop away, and the sprawling, square-mile **Cathedral Park**, situated just beneath our city's only true suspension bridge, offers rolling acres of green grass and a tiny, kid-friendly beach, perfect for launching a kayak or paddleboard.

Local families also gather at the **St. Johns Park** playground and sing the praises of **Pier Park**, which stays dryish throughout the year thanks to a thick, healthy tree canopy — a godsend in the age of COVID.

ERIN J. BERNARD

eat here

St. Johns families can't get enough of **Slim's Cocktail Bar & Restaurant**, a recently revamped century-old lounge where the fare is affordable and surprisingly delicious and kids are welcome. Other culinary favorites include the blueberry-beet muffins from **The Sparrow Bakery**, fish-and-chips at the **St. Johns Food and Beer Porch**, tacos at **Tienda Santa Cruz**, and hazelnut-and-strawberry pancakes at **John Street Café**. **StormBreaker St. Johns** brewery, which features a large covered and heated patio, is also proving a popular neighborhood gathering spot during the pandemic.

live here

$450,000
Median home price

$1,500
Average rent for a 2-bedroom apartment

SOURCES: REDFIN AND ZUMPER

— Erin J. Bernard

Northeast: King
Neighborhood

ERIN J. BERNARD

the CITY GUIDE

Eclectic dining options, sky-high walking and biking scores, and a community of resident-advocates — there's lots to love about King.

This historically Black neighborhood, stretching between Ainsworth and Fremont streets and bisected by Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, has worked hard to maintain its proud identity through decades of displacement and city disinvestment. Today, the neighborhood is thriving thanks to the efforts of a close-knit community with an ongoing commitment to supporting Black-owned businesses, but as gentrification bumps up the cost of living, the challenge has shifted to keeping that growth inclusive for all residents.

live here

$662,500
Median home price

$1,995
Average rent for a 2-bedroom apartment

SOURCES:
REDFIN AND ZUMPER

PORTLAND PARKS AND RECREATION

ERIN J. BERNARD

eat here

For filling breakfast staples without the wait, **Fuel Cafe** on restaurant-filled Northeast Alberta Street is a go-to family spot, but don't overlook the culinary delights dotting Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. There, you'll find a rich spread of restaurants and carts serving up everything from authentic, family-friendly West African staples at **Akadi PDX** to a rotating menu of scrumptious soul food classics served up in portions hefty enough to feed a crowd at **Kee's Loaded Kitchen**. Be sure to hit Kee's early in the day, though: This fare sells out fast!

SHARISHA HICKS

Sharisha Hicks, owner of local day care Royal Owl Academy and a longtime King resident, loves the vibe here. "It's a good neighborhood to raise a family in," she says. "It's diverse, with good schools and good families."

Her own family's been in the neighborhood for half a century, and she's now raising up a fourth generation of King residents — Aminia, 17; Ameiah, 9; and Ameir, 3; in the home she inherited from her grandmother and shares with her husband, Lalu, and mother-in-law, Barbara.

Hicks got her start in child care babysitting for a neighbor's grandchildren when she was still a kid herself, and today she operates a certified family day care out of her house.

She praises King's walkability, its calm and its close proximity to parks where her day care kiddos can run their energy out. Her street — and the neighbors living on it — hasn't changed too much over the decades, though things definitely feel quieter than they were when Hicks was growing up.

"There were a lot more kids," she recalls. "We used to play softball on the corner and stay out till the streetlights came on."

get around

44 Transit score

64 Walk score

83 Bike score

SOURCE: WALK SCORE

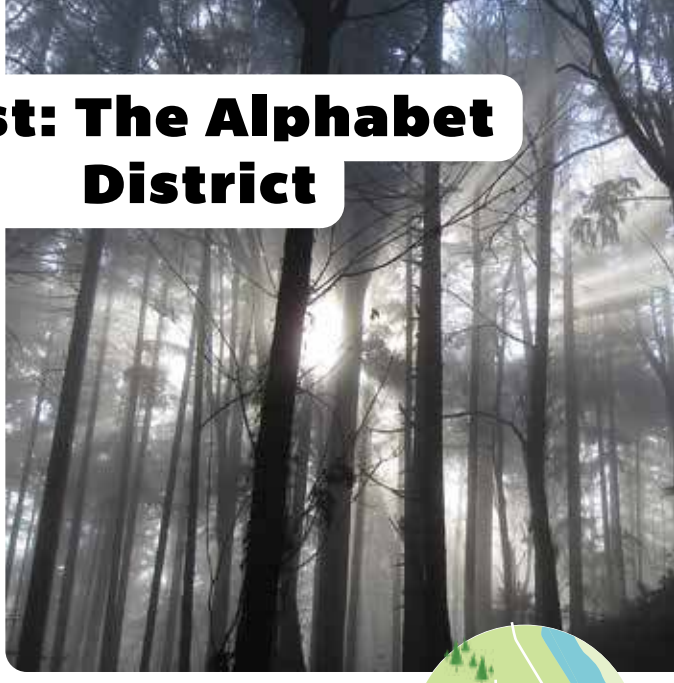
play here

King families often gather at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School's **King School Park**, which doubles as a community hub in the heart of the neighborhood, hosting the **King Farmers Market** May through November and plenty of other annual community-building events.

A deep tradition of grassroots organizing has also shaped the physical contours of King: In the 1990s, residents cleared out a vacant lot and persuaded the City of Portland to fund its transformation into **Two Plum Park** — a beloved pint-sized playground for neighborhood littles. At King's southern edge, **Irving Park** offers extra room to roam, and at the neighborhood's eastern boundary, the vibrant **Alberta Arts District** offers year-round strolling, murals galore and lots of super-local shopping, plus a colorful annual street fair.

— Erin J. Bernard

Northwest: The Alphabet District



Long before the Pearl District became a thing, the historic Alphabet District, specifically Northwest 23rd Avenue and its adjacent streets, was the city's go-to upscale shopping and dining destination. And it still shines on those fronts. Locals also praise the area's gorgeous vintage buildings, prime walkability, and easy MAX and bus access. The neighborhood, also called the Northwest District, offers great parks, schools, grocery stores and other amenities, including Legacy Good Samaritan Medical Center. Roughly bound by Northwest 25th and 16th avenues and West Burnside Street, the Alphabet District is adjacent to the Pearl District to the east, downtown to the southeast and the vast, wooded playground that is Forest Park to the west, putting residents in the heart of what makes Portland tick.

the CITY GUIDE

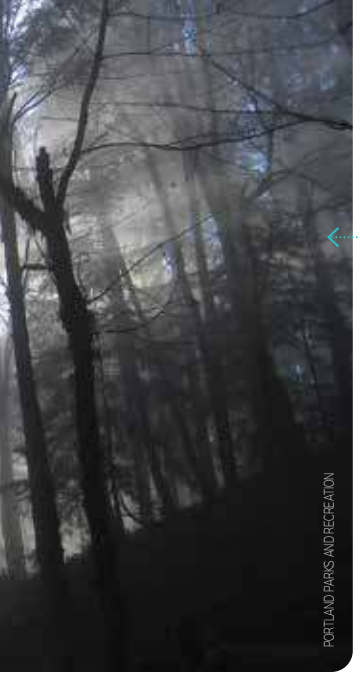
Parents in the Alphabet District love being close to the library, parks, stores, downtown and restaurants. Sophie Fauveau, originally from France, has lived in the area since 2000 and is the mom of two 10-year-olds and an 8-year-old. She loves that her kids can play right on the sidewalk among the bustling life of the city: "I like the European feel of the neighborhood and that walking to the store and lugging back our groceries is normal for my kids." Another perk: "We almost never use our car." Anna Dvortcsak, a mother of twin 10-year-olds, also praises the neighborhood's vibe: "We love the proximity to school [and] walkability for parks, restaurants, and even the doctor and dentist." The one neighborhood con, she says: parking.

SOPHIE FAUVEAU

get around

65 Transit score

97 Walk score



PORTLAND PARKS AND RECREATION

play here

The Alphabet District is just a few blocks from the base of 5,200-acre **Forest Park**, the country's largest urban forest, which boasts more than 80 miles of trails and forest roads for hiking, biking and running. **Couch Park** on Northwest Glisan Street and **Wallace Park** on Northwest 25th Avenue and Raleigh Street (next to Chapman Elementary) both offer playgrounds, sport courts and fields, and dog parks.

96 Bike score

SOURCE: WALK SCORE

live here

$568,000
Median home value

$2,796
Average rent for a 2-bedroom apartment

SOURCES: REALTOR.COM AND ZUMPER

SARAH VAN BUSKIRK

eat here

The Alphabet District offers everything from the upscale **RingSide**, a steakhouse with impeccable onion rings and killer filet mignon, to the quintessential pizza joint for ready-to-eat slices, **Escape From New York Pizza**. Other favorites include **Kornblatt's Deli** for bagels and sandwiches and **Santa Fe Taqueria** for burritos and tacos.

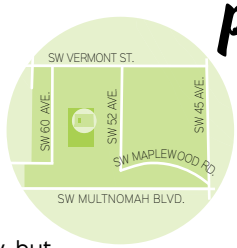
— Sarah Vanbuskirk

the CITY GUIDE

JOANNA CLOSE

Southwest: Maplewood Neighborhood

Almost exclusively a residential neighborhood, Maplewood in Southwest Portland is unknown to many, but beloved by its residents. Sandwiched between Multnomah Village and Garden Home, this neighborhood has easy access to family-friendly resources and recreation, other Portland enclaves and tons of suburban amenities.



play here

Although a car is a near-necessity to leave the area, this less-than-1-square-mile neighborhood is regularly walked by its residents — rain or shine — often with strollers and four-legged friends in tow. Maplewood residents love its green spaces. The well-hidden **April Hill Park** is a neighborhood gem, with soccer fields, a play structure for young children and boardwalk access to Fanno Creek. There are no sidewalks, but a few "secret" paths called "snickets" wind through the neighborhood knolls, and the streets are dotted with **Little Free Libraries**. Just beyond the formal boundaries but still within walking distance is the 91-acre **Gabriel Park** and the **Southwest Community Center (SWCC)** to the west, and the **Garden Home Recreation Center** and **Fanno Creek Trails** to the east.

JOANNA CLOSE

live here

$650,000
Median home price

$2,273
Median rent

SOURCES: ZILLOW AND ZUMPER

HEATHER JONES

The Jones family has lived in Maplewood for nearly six years. They came mostly for the proximity to OHSU, and plan to stay for the close-knit community feel. They particularly like the nearby parks and schools, that their neighbors are friendly, and that (pre-pandemic) there are lots of opportunities for kids to meet and play together. David Jones says: "It's so walkable — not in the getting-anywhere sense — but there's such little traffic, it's basically insular from cars. I feel comfortable with my daughter walking to her friends' houses or school."

get around

27 Transit score

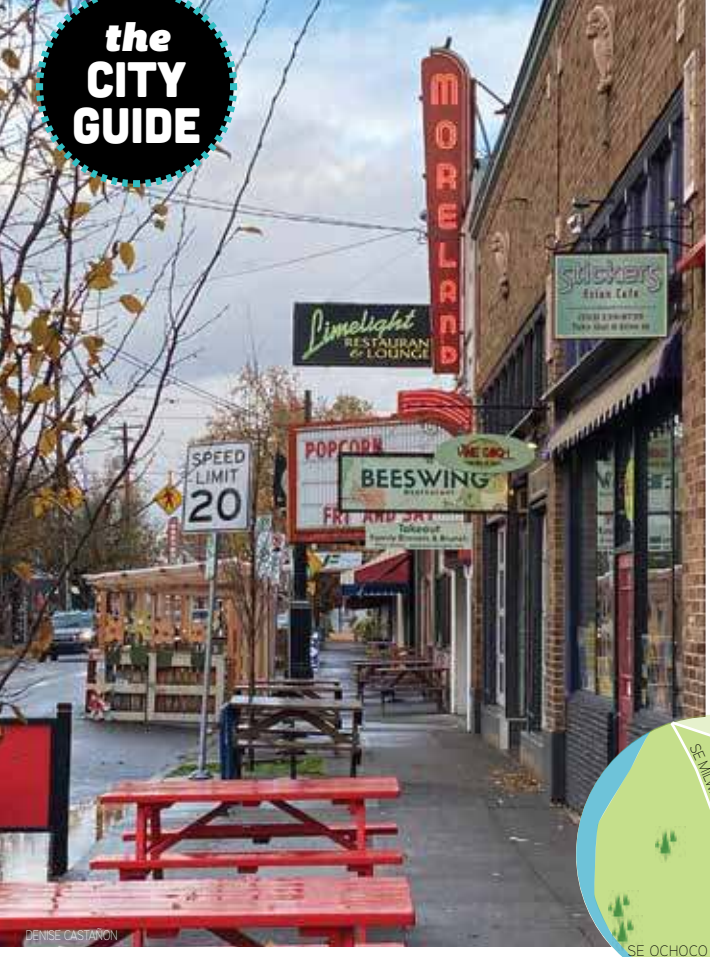
34 Walk score

54 Bike score

eat here

Built in 1911 as a post office and general store, **Maplewood Coffee & Tea** attracts local residents and visitors alike. In addition to breakfast and lunch, it offers seasonal dinners as well as beer and cider on tap. On Southwest Vermont Street just across from SWCC, **Driftwood Coffee** is owned by local Maplewood mom Kara Powell and offers a cozy atmosphere to enjoy a honey lavender or cardamom latte and shop for artisanal gifts. Although technically outside of Maplewood proper, across Southwest 45th Avenue is family-favorite **Laughing Planet**, just a few doors down from the locally owned **Sunny's Legendary Frozen Yogurt** — the first and only Oregon Kosher-certified fro-yo shop.

— Joanna Close



DENISE CASTAÑON

Southeast: Sellwood-Moreland Neighborhood

Sellwood-Moreland in Southeast is the quintessential, walkable, self-contained Portland neighborhood. (It's also known as Sellwood-Westmoreland.) With grocery, hardware, book and toy stores, a pediatrician's office, restaurants and bakeries galore, one of Portland's most popular nature playgrounds, and even an amusement park all in the neighborhood, you'll hardly ever have to leave. It's no wonder the neighborhood is extremely popular with families and homes for sale are in high demand.

eat here

Sellwood-Moreland residents have a huge range of family-friendly restaurant choices along the main thoroughfares. Here are just a few favorites. The ribs and brisket are not to be missed at **Reverend's BBQ**. And kiddos dig the BBQ-chip-topped mac 'n' cheese, too. OG breakfast eatery **Fat Albert's** turns out fluffy pancakes and huge omelets with hash browns. Your kids will love the tiny burgers and sandwiches at **PDX Sliders**. (Don't worry they've got full-size versions for hungry grown-ups, too.)

DENISE CASTAÑON

live here

$650,000
Median home price

$1,730
Average rent for a 2-bedroom apartment

SOURCES: ZILLOW AND ZUMPER

play here

PORTLAND PARKS AND RECREATION

No matter the season, kids love the nature playground at **Westmoreland Park**, which is equally famous for the Canada geese that call the park home. In the summer, Portland Parks and Recreation's **Sellwood Pool** and the 95-year-old **Oaks Amusement Park** draw families in droves. (And when pools were closed because of COVID-19, the Willamette River access from **Sellwood Riverfront Park** proved a great place to cool off on hot days.) And the retro **Moreland Theater** is open with limited-capacity screenings. While Sellwood is home to many antiques stores, several family-oriented shops also line Southeast 13th and Milwaukie avenues, including the Bull and the Bee, Wallace Books and Oodles toy store. (And the Columbia Sportswear outlet store is a great place to snag raging deals on kids' rain gear.)

ALI WILKINSON

Sellwood-Moreland resident Ali Wilkinson loves the neighborhood's combination of a small-town feel and its proximity to urban amenities. "We know our neighbors, and can send our kids out to bike ride with their friends (just like the '80s!), but can get to downtown in 15 minutes in traffic," says Wilkinson, who has three school-aged children. "It's also very walkable. No matter where you are, you can get to a grocery store, library or hardware store within a mile. Our elementary school [Llewellyn] is solid and filled with totally dedicated and fabulous teachers, although I wish class sizes were smaller." Wilkinson's family also looks forward to the annual Monster March the weekend before Halloween. "Kids (and grown-ups) dress up and march from Llewellyn Elementary School around downtown Westmoreland while neighbors and businesses throw candy," she says. Wilkinson also acknowledges the neighborhood's downsides: It lacks diversity and its popularity is making it increasingly expensive to buy or rent in the area.

get around

46 Transit score | **81** Walk score | **95** Bike score

SOURCE: WALK SCORE

— Denise Castañon

CITY OF BEAVERTON

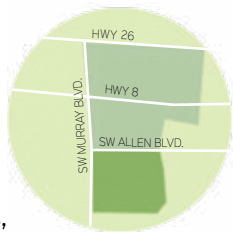
The 'burbs: Highland Neighborhood

live here

$552,500
Median home price

$1,250
Average rent for a 2-bedroom apartment

SOURCES: REDFIN AND ZUMPER



There's much to celebrate in Beaverton's Highland neighborhood. Residents enjoy ample parks and nature areas, as well as close proximity to restaurants, shops and the Nike campus. From the Beaverton Transit Center, the Red and Blue MAX lines offer a 30-minute trip to downtown Portland. And the city of Beaverton has taken on the goals of cultural inclusion, public safety and long-term livability. Its progress has been noted by the National Civic League and livability.com, which ranked Beaverton the No. 3 Best Place to Raise a Family in the U.S.

CARLI SCHULTZ

get around

36 Transit score

42 Walk score

play here

Highland families have a multitude of close-by choices when it comes to green spaces to romp through. Residents can hit **Hyland Forest Park**, the paved **Fanno Creek Greenway Trail** or the skate park at **Evelyn M. Schiffler Memorial Park**. And nearby in central Beaverton, the **Beaverton Farmers Market** is a paradise where foodie families can pick up fresh veggies along with artisan cheeses, breads and more. And the city of Beaverton also hosts a number of events, including **Welcoming Week**, slated for September 10-19, 2021. Welcoming Week, which includes the popular **Beaverton International Festival**, is a way to celebrate diversity and to connect refugees, immigrants and those born in the United States.

CITY OF BEAVERTON

"We live in Hyland Hills and have such a wonderful block of humans. Block parties, neighbor gatherings ... (pre-pandemic) we had soup nights where everyone brings a favorite. We'd gather at the bistro table in the front yard of Mr. Nader, our 80-year-old Iranian neighbor, on summer evenings, bringing the party to him."

— Carli Schultz, Highland resident and mom to an 11-year-old son

66 Bike score

SOURCE: WALK SCORE

EL JEFE MEXICAN GRILL

eat here

On Southwest Allen Boulevard, **Ikenohana** serves up outstanding sushi and tempura. Or, farther east on Allen, go for the boss grilled chicken at **El Jefe Mexican Grill**. The carne asada tacos and fresh salsa aren't to be missed, either! Both restaurants have offered takeout during the pandemic.

— Denise Castañon

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PDX TREND: FRIED-CHICKEN GOODNESS

From downtown to the 'burbs, Portlanders of all ages are reaching for another piece of the ultimate comfort food: crispy-crunchy chicken. All fried-chicken joints mentioned below are open for takeout.

Bonchon, a chain from South Korea that recently moved in at **Clackamas Town Center**, tosses its chicken (tenders, wings or boneless wings) in one of two sauces: spicy or soy-garlic. The spicy is pleasantly hot. The soy-garlic is delicious, too, and also great for dunking potstickers in. Don't miss the sweet pickled radishes or the creamy sesame-sriracha dipping sauce that comes with the onion rings! "This is the best fried-chicken place ever," declared my 5-year-old son, Cruz. *Bonchon.com*.

For a Nashville-style hot-chicken sandwich, head to **Basilisk** in **The Zipper on Northeast Sandy Boulevard**. The housemade pickles are heavenly. **Pro tip:** You can order chicken without the super-spicy sauce, and they have outdoor seating when allowed. *Basiliskpdx.com*.

In the Southwest 'burbs **near Washington Square Mall**, **Ezell's Famous Chicken** lives up to the hype. **Pro tip:** Its sides could be a meal on their own! The rolls, mac 'n' cheese, baked beans and potato salad are kid-approved. *Ezellschicken.com*.

The **Sellwood-Moreland neighborhood** is now home to two fabulous fried-chicken joints: Baes and Holler. **Baes**, which also has a location in **downtown**, offers strips, sandwiches and pieces, and a number of kid-friendly sides like buttered corn and waffle fries. It also offers a family meal, which includes a whole fried chicken and up to four different sides. Meanwhile, **Holler** specializes in fried chicken wings, pieces and sandwiches, but also has burgers and meatloaf sandwiches on the menu, along with cornbread, cookies and housemade ice cream. — *Denise Castañon*

GREATSCHOOLS.ORG:
Ratings aren't the whole story

In their quest for the best education possible for their children, parents may find ratings services to be a good way to quickly judge a school.

But those simple numbers may hide a more complex truth.

Take, for example, Scott Elementary School on Northeast Prescott Street in the Cully neighborhood. Is it a "good" school?

It depends on what information you rely on, and what experiences you value.

According to *GreatSchools.org* — the popular ranking site used by real estate professionals and Googlers across the nation — Scott Elementary is not a good school, earning just 1 out of 10 possible points.

MEGAN MCCARTER

But, Scott principal Megan McCarter says, relying only on *GreatSchools.org* data to make that call would be a mistake.

"I'm a very data-minded individual. I think tests and data are super important," says the former math teacher. "I also think they're not the whole story."

Scott's faculty loves the school so much that they stick around for years, McCarter says, and the Parent Teacher Association has won awards for its inclusive membership and outstanding programming.

GreatSchools.org relies heavily on statewide standardized test data for its rankings. The tests are offered in English and have been criticized for cultural bias.

While Scott's Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) scores are low, McCarter says their quarterly tests — which can be offered in Spanish — show the school is in the middle of the pack nationwide for student growth. Nearly a third of students at the dual-language school do not speak English as their first language.

"In such a white city, we have a really diverse school," McCarter adds, noting a special focus on racial equity and a social-justice curriculum. Learning how to work and play with people from a wide range of backgrounds, she says, is an "invaluable experience, especially when you are growing up in a city that is so white."

A 2019 research paper found that the increasingly widespread use of GreatSchools rankings could be accelerating racial segregation at schools. After the website attached ratings to schools, the racial and wealth gaps between higher- and lower-rated schools widened.

McCarter points out that many of the written reviews on Scott's GreatSchools.org page are glowing. She says that just goes to show that parents hunting for the right school should look beyond the number.

"I would say do your research," she says. "Talk to the principal. Go to the school." — *Shasta Kearns Moore*

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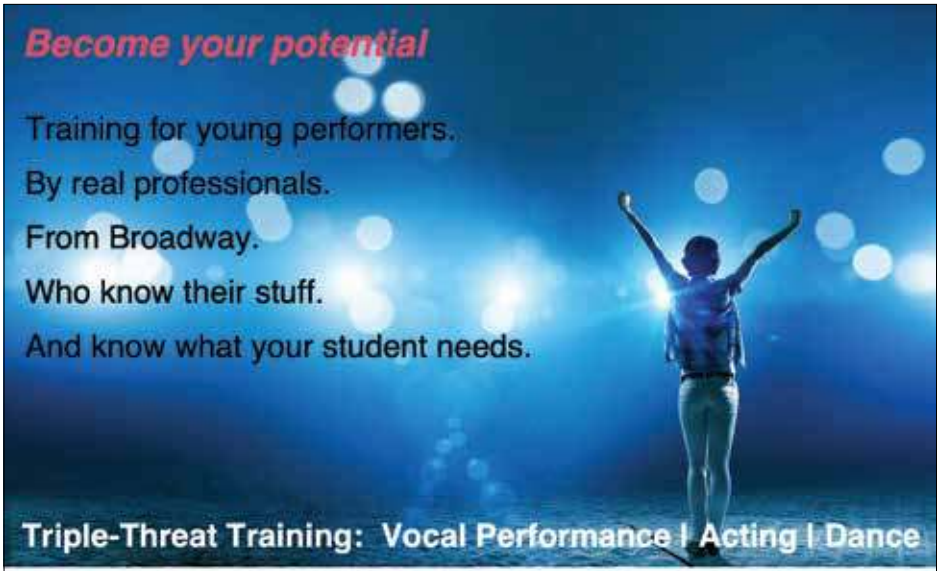

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KIDS ❤

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

Just getting to this island in Washington's Puget Sound is an adventure! First, you'll need to drive to Seattle's Colman Dock, where you'll board a ferry for the 35-minute trip to Bainbridge. (The ferry transports cars, pedestrians and bicyclists.) Park your car and head up to the sun deck to get the best view of the Seattle skyline as the ferry pulls out of the dock.

DENISE CASTAÑON

Once on the island, head to **Bloedel Reserve**, a 150-acre botanical garden with 23 distinct landscapes to explore. Plan on taking two hours to stroll the 2-mile loop. (**Pro tip:** Reserve timed-entry tickets well in advance at *bloedelreserve.org*.) Or take a walk through a lush canopy of firs, cedars and maples on the **West Grand Forest Trail network**; be sure to visit the impressive rock cairns off the **Ted Williamson Trillium Trail! Pro tip:** The bathroom is open at Prue's House at the top of Hilltop Trail. Head back to Bainbridge Island's main drag — **Winslow Way** — for a snack at **Coquette Bake Shop**, and then peruse the truly excellent selection of silly finger puppets at **Calico Toy Shoppe**. Don't miss the lovely children's room at **Eagle Harbor Book Co**. For dinner, **Doc's Marina Grill** has a kid-pleasing menu — and filling fish 'n' chips for grown-ups. Or get the freshest catch at **Proper Fish**. Spend the night at an Airbnb or take the ferry back to Seattle.

— Denise Castañon

DENISE CASTAÑON

ADVENTURE

WALDPORT/YACHATS

Day trips and short jaunts have proven to be highly beneficial for everyone's mental health in my family. It's easy to keep a safe distance from others while visiting the beautiful natural scenery in the coastal towns of Waldport and Yachats. You can catch a glimpse of lounging and playful harbor seals during a morning walk across the **Alsea Bay Bridge** in Waldport. Venture to **Smelt Sands Park** in Yachats and walk along the paved 804 Trail to watch blowholes put on a show. Walking north along the 804 Trail leads you to a vast sandy beach. (**Thor's Well** is another nearby blowhole, but stick to the viewing areas! The trail north from Thor's Well will lead you to peaceful **tide pools** full of green anemones!) For beach-going without the walk, drive north of Waldport to **Seal Rock State Recreation Site**. Bring chairs and park yourselves next to the little creek if engineering a dam or building a sandcastle would keep your kiddos busy for an entire afternoon. (And stop by **Seal Rock's Indulge** for to-die-for fudge or Tillamook ice cream. Don't miss the decadent salted-caramel fudge — trust us!) For camping-lite accommodations that help you easily distance, check out the deluxe cabins at the **Waldport/Newport KOA**.

DENISE CASTAÑON

Each has a private bathroom and kitchenette, but you'll need to bring your own linens or sleeping bags, and a camping cookstove. There are also fire pits and outdoor grills. Or get takeout fish 'n' chips from **Luna Sea Fish House** in Yachats. (If your kids don't do seafood, there's a cheeseburger on the menu, too.) Swing by the **Oregon Coast Aquarium** in Newport on your way in or out. You can read about its COVID-19 safety procedures at *aquarium.org*.

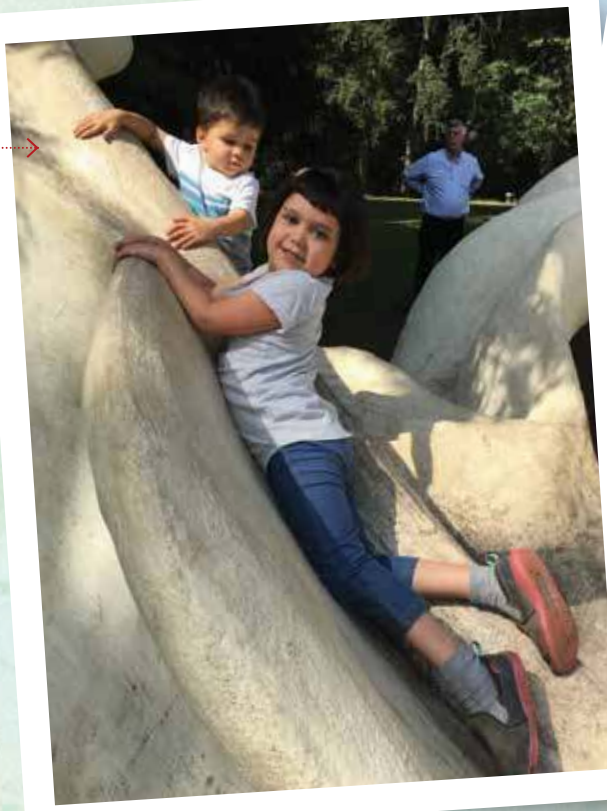
— Denise Castañon

KIDS ♥ ADVENTURE

CORVALLIS

A trip to Reser Stadium to cheer on the Beavers isn't the only reason to hit this classic college town. Family-friendly offerings, fun outdoor activities and a burgeoning food scene are all great reasons to visit this summer. Bring your bikes and cycle along the scenic **Campus Way bike path** that stretches from the Oregon State University campus to the Benton County Fairgrounds. **Avery Park** is worth a visit so your kids can clamber over the **Dinosaur Bones** play structure and old Georgia Pacific locomotive. Get fresh veggies and a different view of the Willamette River at the **Corvallis Farmers Market**, open April through November on Saturdays and Wednesdays at Northwest 1st Street and Jackson Avenue. Hit up the long-lived **New Morning Bakery** in Corvallis' quaint and walkable downtown for a quick and tasty breakfast or lunch. We love the fresh salad options from the deli case (and the irresistible pecan-and-cinnamon pull-aparts). For dinner (and independent artisan beer), check out **Block 15 Restaurant and Brewery**. Craving something sweeter? Swing by **Benny's Donuts** and peep a dazzling array of regionally inspired doughnut flavors, from Oregon marionberry to Canadian maple. Visit *airbnb.com* for a slew of affordable rental houses.

— Denise Castañon and Erin J. Bernard



DENISE CASTAÑON

MT. BACHELOR ZIPTOUR

BEND

Think Bend isn't close enough for a weekend getaway? Think again. A quick three-hour drive over Mount Hood gets your family to Oregon's favorite high-desert playground, and there's lots to do here even without snow falling. **Mount Bachelor**, situated in the serene **Deschutes National Forest**, offers day hikes ranging from gentle to challenging, plus scenic chairlift rides all the way up to Pine Marten Lodge, perched at 7,800 feet. **Pro tip:** Older kids won't want to miss the **Mount Bachelor ZipTour**. And kids 12 and up can embark on a starlit canoe tour of the Cascade Lakes with local company **Wanderlust Tours**, which includes dessert and hot cocoa served on the lakeshore. Keep dinner simple with the family-style takeout menu at globally influenced **Spork**, or dine on kid-sized rice bowls and tacos, with a side of fresh veggies. Of course, Bend is known for beer, and we like **Crux Fermentation Project** — about the kid-friendliest brewery around. The food-and-drink specials are good during Sundowner Hour (half-hour before and after sunset). Check out *vrbo.com* for house rentals. And be sure to visit **Columbia Park**, which is famous for its pirate ship play structure.

— Julia Silverman and Erin J. Bernard

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