

South Tabor Crow

A neighborhood newsletter brought to you by your
South Tabor Neighborhood Association (STNA)

ISSUE NO. 6 | September 2025

Welcome!



Join us for repainting the 67th and
Woodward street mural (details on the
following page under events).

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Juan at the August STNA Board Meeting

Crow's Nest

Message from the chair of STNA

As summer comes to a close and the kids head back to school, I'm more optimistic about Portland than I've been in a while. I see action (finally!) on some Powell safety improvements. And while things in Salem are still a mess with no transportation package, I'm energized by our new city government. It's a learning curve, but it's awesome we have three reps accountable to residents in District 3. It's nice to see conflict and debate, a dramatic change from our old system that lived on unanimous apathy.

Speaking of fighting apathy, thanks, everyone who heeded the STNA's August call to take advantage of Portland's Plant-a-Tree program! Neighbors knocked on doors and put up posters, many folks signed up, and others are ready to help plant when trees arrive this fall. Let's make this an annual tradition!

In community,
Juan Cummings

Upcoming Events

- STNA Board Meetings: Sept. 18th, Oct. 16th, and Nov. 20th, 7-8:30pm @ location TBD
- Street Mural Repaint: Sept. 20th, 6:30pm @ SE Woodward & 67th
- Mt .Tabor Tar 'n' Trail 5k and 10k family-friendly runs: October 19th

Nifty Neighbor Profile

Meet South Tabor's Vocal Dog Whisperer

By Cathy Kudlick

Tricia Case, founder and owner of Trailblazing Tails, moved to South Tabor thirteen years ago, attracted by the nearby running trails and low-key vibe. Her small business draws upon her nineteen years of experience working with dogs and a degree in psychology to design lightweight, intuitive tools from the dog's perspective.

CROW: What would a dog notice about South Tabor?

TC: What a fun question! Tabor was a bunch of apple orchards at one point, so I wonder what the soil nutrients would smell like for them? And all the kids, because we have so many in the neighborhood – of course that can be stressful for dogs, or exciting and fun.

CROW: And the crows?

TC: I never feed them, but crows know that dog walkers carry treats, so I've collected a lot of videos of them making sure the dogs didn't miss anything. As for the dogs, the ones I walk in the neighborhood aren't generally bird-motivated, so they're like, "whatever, bird." But it depends upon breed and personality.

CROW: How do you get inside the head of a dog?

TC: The more you learn, the less you know! It's important to have a strong education in dog body language. Paul Owens, the original dog whisperer, taught me so much.



Photo of smiling Tricia Case wearing a t-shirt that says: "Dogs talk with their bodies" across the body of a dog.

Seek out the science, figure out what the dog's brain is doing. I grew up on a hog and cattle farm in Iowa where there was no such thing as being kind to animals. So I know both sides of this world, and I'm not interested in punishment.

CROW: What are you proud of?

TC: I self-published a Child and Dog Interaction Guide, which has become a tool for families and used by lots of dog trainers and veterinary behaviorists.

And I'm writing and producing a song called "I Talk with My Body." I'm working with my neighbor and husband (real musicians) and kids (11 and 9, both music nerds). It will be pretty raw and fun. Throughout my career, I've created catchy little rhymes to teach children about dog body language and behavior that they'll carry through their lifetimes. Honestly, I hope it changes the world!

For the song, great resources, and products designed from a dog's perspective, visit: <https://www.trailblazingtails.com/>

Our Teachers, the Crows

By Leslie Barnard Booth

During the first fall of the pandemic, when playgrounds were still wrapped in caution tape, I would coax my daughters (then 6 and 8) out of the house every afternoon. It was a dreary but vital routine. We'd march around the neighborhood, then stop at the Atkinson baseball field, where the kids would tromp through puddles and poke sticks in the mud.

One day, we noticed crows—lots of crows—flying across the South Tabor sky. The next day, we saw them again. A pattern emerged: Each day at about 4:30 p.m., they'd begin streaming westward. They gave us something to look forward to, becoming a bright spot in dark days.

Where were they headed? An online search revealed that crows roost together in large numbers in fall and winter, and that there was a roost west of us in the heart of downtown Portland. Maybe when lockdown ended (if it ended?) I would go looking for it.

Over a year later, I ventured downtown for my daughters' first dance performance since the pandemic began. As I walked through the Park Blocks on that chilly winter night, I heard a tremendous racket. When I looked up, my breath caught. Crows were everywhere—settled on branches and buildings, swirling in the sky above. They chattered, squabbled, and played—doing the kind of socializing we humans had been missing for so long. Without even meaning to, I had stumbled upon the roost!



Author Leslie Barnard Booth holds her new book *I Am We*

That night, a masked audience watched a masked ballet. I marveled at the determination of the young dancers on that stage, who, despite everything, were still making art and spreading hope. This experience inspired *I Am We*—an ode to crows and an ode to the power of we.

Book Reading

Join our neighbor, two-time Oregon Book Award Finalist, Leslie Barnard Booth as she shares *I Am We: How Crows Come Together to Survive*, illustrated by Alexandra Finkeldey (Chronicle Books, September 2025).

- Powell's City of Books: Saturday, September 13 @ 10:30 a.m.
- Green Bean Books: Sunday, September 14 @ 2 p.m.
- Annie Bloom's Books: Thursday, September 18 @ 7 p.m.



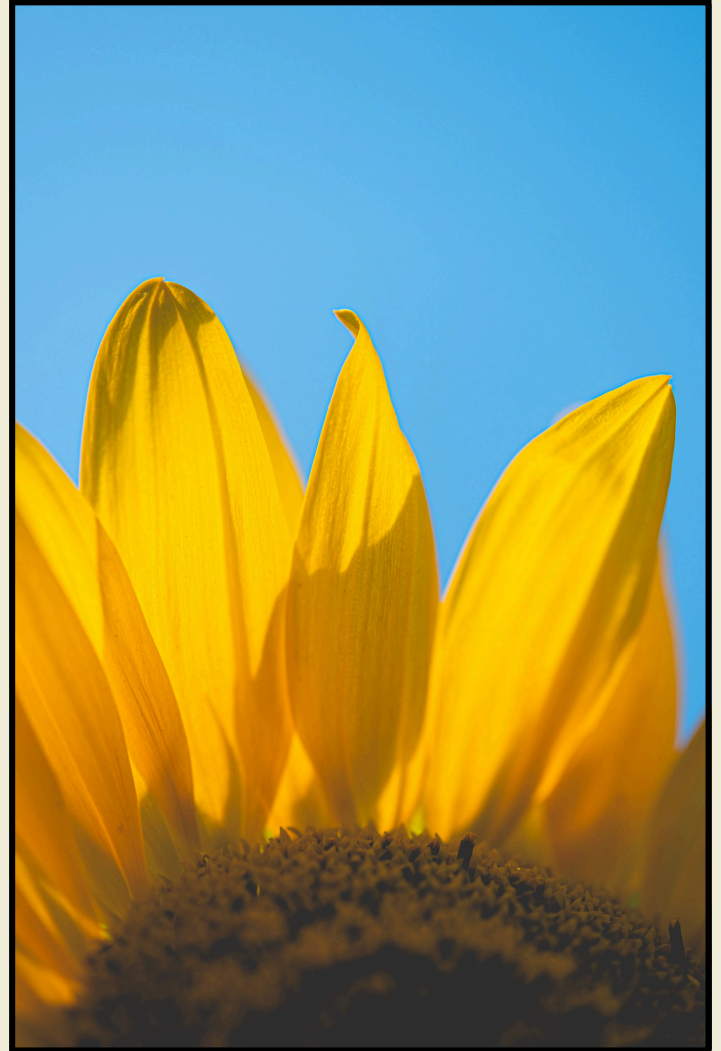
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- *I Am We* book:
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Sunflowers signaling late summer

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