



South Tabor Crow

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

ISSUE NO.1 | June 2024

Welcome!

Friends, Neighbors, Business People!

Welcome to the revival of the *South Tabor Crow*, brought to you by the South Tabor Neighborhood Association (STNA). Like you, we live, work, learn, play, sing, walk, roll, shovel, admire, wonder, and more in South Tabor. Some of us have been renting, owning or considering this area home for years, others are newcomers. All are welcome and all belong.

Our goal with this quarterly zine is to share stories about our unique rectangle of southeast Portland that bring folks together, answer burning questions, and offer a new way to be involved, all while spotlighting neighborhood gems.

Read on, and be sure to take the brief survey at the end to give us a sense of what you'd like to find in future issues. And if you want to be involved in the newsletter or anything else STNA, we'd love to have you!



STNA logo – crows and flowers encircling South Tabor

Mt. Tabor Talk

A feature to keep neighbors up-to-date on matters related to our local mighty mountain.

In April, STNA Secretary Cathy Kudlick joined the Friends of Mt. Tabor Board and encourages people to learn about all the organization offers at:

<https://www.taborfriends.org>

Ideas for Future Crows

Please take this [short survey](#) to provide us with newsletter feedback.

Connect with STNA

Question or comment? Drop us a line @ communications@southtabor.org.

Join the STNA mailing list [here](#).



Crow's Nest

In each issue, STNA Chair Juan Cummings will offer a few words. But to get to know him, we start with an interview.

Juan moved to South Tabor with his wife and son from the Woodstock neighborhood in 2018 and has served as chair of the neighborhood association since 2022. He works as a manager at a granola factory. On weekends you'll find him coaching middle-school soccer and shopping in his favorite Asian markets in the Jade District.

CROW: What made you join the South Tabor Neighborhood Association, then become chair?

JC: As someone who isn't a politician, I wanted to find a voice for regular people in city politics, not just for those with money and influence. I'm volunteering to be a voice for my neighbors, meeting more of them, making where I live more friendly. As for being chair, there's an old joke in *Robert's Rules of Order*, that if you want to make someone stop talking, elect them chair, because the job is to facilitate others!

South Tabor Education Connection

Coming Fall 2024

A feature devoted to what's happening in our four local schools. Learn how people with and without kids can offer support by attending concerts, athletics, and fundraising activities.



Juan at 67th and Woodward where the STNA maintains a street mural

CROW: What's one thing you'd say to get folks to come be part of the STNA?

JC: If you don't think of yourself as the neighborhood-association type, you should be coming! South Tabor is about a 50-50 mix of renters and homeowners, so we don't have this feeling of "horrors! People are invading our neighborhood!" We're a community association (no drama!), which includes not just long-time residents, but also people who just moved here, which means homeowners but also people who are houseless or renters or small business owners.

CROW: What specific spot or quirk about our neighborhood makes you happy?

JC: After Kellogg Middle School opened in 2021, South Tabor became one of the only areas with an elementary, a middle, and a high school in the same neighborhood. We now have lots of kids walking to school with their friends—a small town in the middle of the big city!

And no matter where you are, you can see Mt. Tabor. When I get home from work in a factory all day, I'm like "Oh! There's a great mountain there!" and it calms me down."

South Tabor Places

Each issue will profile a local establishment unique to our neighborhood.



Storefront and Salgado family inside the colorful store

El Campesino PDX – 6611 SE Powell Blvd.

Open every day 8:00 AM – 9:00 PM (!)
503-774-4124

El Campesino PDX attracts shoppers from across Portland/Vancouver and as far away as Eugene and Salem. “Many are looking for hard-to-find ingredients so they can make their native foods from scratch,” says Nanci Salgado, who runs the business with her husband, José, and other members of the family. “I don’t know why it is called ‘The Peasant’ [in Spanish],” Nanci said. “We took over the business that another family ran for ten years, so we took over the name and added PDX.”

From Mexico themselves, the Salgados have expanded to products from farther south. “We have goods from Ecuador, Colombia, Brazil, Peru, Guatemala, Chile, all over, that you can’t find anywhere else,” she beamed, pointing to a wide selection of tortillas, salsas, rice, and condiments.

“We’re excited to discover things from other countries.” Then, indicating a large empty wall next to the cash register, she added: “We even have a space we want to fill with souvenirs that people bring to us from back home.”

El Campesino PDX plans to expand the selection of fresh meat, cheese, and prepared hot food, like grilled chicken, tamales, and birria dishes. (According to more than one connoisseur, their homemade tortilla chips are the best in the city.)

They’re also expanding the produce section, thanks to scoring additional refrigeration units and new shelves from the Target that recently closed on SE Powell Blvd.

The day *the Crow* visited, a woman from Woodstock was thrilled to discover the small peppers she couldn’t find anywhere in her neighborhood, along with ripe mangoes, onions, and potatoes.



Colorful baked goods on trays

Another attraction is the large selection of mouthwatering colorful sweets baked by Nanci’s father, Jacob.

The market’s biggest challenge is vandalism. “Sometimes they just break in and don’t take anything, but we still have to fix or even replace the door, which is really expensive,” Nanci said.

Another challenge is getting word to neighbors that this gem exists. “People come in and are like ‘Wow! I didn’t even know you were here!’”

What are you waiting for? Drop in, and tell them you were sent by “the Cuervo of South Tabor.”



Upcoming Events

- **Saturday, June 8th:** Yard sale and garden tour – more info [HERE](#)
- June 10th, 7:00pm: [SPEED 30th anniversary Movie Ride](#) – Pedalpalooza ride ending at The Porch (for movie watching)
- June 18th, 7–8:30pm: STNA Land Use Committee Meeting (virtual, details [here](#))
- June 20th, 7–8:30pm: STNA Board Meeting, annual elections @ neighbor Deborah Kaeser's backyard – 7046 SE Taggart St
- July 11th, 6:30pm: [Mt. Tabor Summer Concert](#) – free @ Caldera Amphitheater featuring Melao de Cuba

What is the neighborhood association about?

- Living in South Tabor, whether we own our home (or not!) within the area bounded by SE 52nd, SE Division, SE 82nd, and SE Powell
- Finding common ground with neighbors
- Meeting and working with folks to improve our neighborhood

It's NOT ABOUT: paying membership fees or measuring how far your recycling bins are from the curb.

Join us the third Thursday of each month (except December) to meet neighbors, discuss issues, share tips, and more!

Where am I? Email your guesses to communications@southtabor.org to be featured in the next newsletter



Someone has sunk their teeth into South Tabor with this customized tooth-shaped bike rack.

Have a favorite funky South Tabor spot? Email us a photo to be featured in a future issue.