

Home Maintenance, Repair and Creative Reuse Event Recap

On Saturday, September 15th, Habitat for Humanity Portland Metro/ East hosted our third annual homeownership event celebrating current and future Habitat homeowners and home repair program participants. Over xx people attended the fun-filled event with delicious food, entertainment and door prizes. Participants asked experts advice on how to complete home maintenance and repair tasks, how to pick complementary paint colors and how to refurbish outdated furniture. Thanks to our experts for volunteering their time and talents and to the following partner businesses for contributing to this event: Trader Joe's, Albertsons, New Seasons Market, Parkrose Hardware, Do It Best Division, Woodstock Ace Hardware, Lan Su Chinese Garden, Nola Doughnuts, Alberta Co-op Grocery, Community Cycling Center, Tiffin Asha, ReStore, Me Fitness Studios and Chinook Book.

EXTRA SPACE FOR FLO PIC OR
SMALL PIC IN OTHER ARTICLE



Welcome Flo and Tram!

In early September, we welcomed our new AmeriCorps member Tram Nguyen, Family Services Coordinator and Florine St Eloi, University of Portland Social Work Intern. Flor loves working with and listening to the stories of older people. During her time at our affiliate, she will be working on a research project for the N/NE Initiative and interviewing future and current homeowners. She's looking forward to completing her double degree in Social Work and Spanish in 2019.

Tram has extensive experience in customer service and the medical field. She's working toward completing her nursing degree at Mt. Hood Community College. Tram has a passion for working with low and moderate income families and she's excited to help conduct outreach to applicants and to recruit homeowners to participate in our education programs.

EXTRA SPACE FOR FLO PIC OR
SMALL PIC IN OTHER ARTICLE

Keep Those Critters Away!

All kinds of pests want to find comfort inside of our homes. Before you spend money on hiring an exterminator, take steps to create a hostile environment for bugs and other pests. Here are 7 cheap, effective ways to pest-proof your home.

1. Seal and repair openings

Check your foundation for cracks and gaps, especially where pipes exit through the wall. Go outside and look for openings around exterior outlets, laundry vents and utility meters. These areas are the most likely to have large cracks for bugs or rodents to enter. Seal small holes with caulk. To prevent mice from getting inside, use steel wool to plug holes like those found near baseboard heaters and dryer. Check weather stripping on doors and windows, and repair holes in screens.

2. Give your pets a dining space

Leaving your pet's food bowl on the floor is a big mistake. Bits of food knocked out of the dish end up on the floor and attract ants. Give your pet a dining area on a rubber mat. This makes spilled food easier to spot and clean up. If you're having an ant problem with pet food left on the floor, put the food bowl into a larger bowl with water in it — the ants can't cross the moat to get to the food.

3. Keep a clean kitchen

Just about every unwanted pest is attracted to leftover bits of food, so keeping a clean living area is important. Here are a few quick tips:

- Keep all leftovers stored in lidded containers.
- Check for sugar spills near the coffee maker.
- Wipe residue off containers containing sugary stuff, such as peanut butter and jelly.
- Keep fruit out of direct sunlight and check frequently for spoiled produce.
- Vacuum or sweep regularly.
- Rinse containers before putting them in the recycling bin.

4. Keep a dry home

Insects love damp environments, so eliminate moisture and wet spots. To do so, start by applying caulk to fix leaks around tubs and sinks. Look for water spots in your ceiling that could mean a hole in your roof. Holes can also be an entry spot for bugs.

5. Clean up the yard

Insects are likely to congregate under grass clippings, compost heaps and decaying leaves. They will also use branches touching your home as pathways. So, trim branches and shrubbery to keep insects confined to plants. Clean up pet poop, and keep trash bins and compost heaps securely covered and away from your house.

6. Make a homemade fruit fly trap

Add a squirt of dish soap to half a cup of apple cider vinegar in an open container. The flies are attracted to the sweet-smelling vinegar, and the soap breaks the surface tension, drowning the fly. Put a few of them around the house where you see the pests, but don't put the traps near open windows — that encourages more flies to come in.

7. Practice mosquito management

Get rid of standing water: Mosquitoes lay eggs in stagnant water, so take away their breeding ground by overturning water in open containers and throwing mulch or soil over yard puddles.

Place minced garlic around your porch. Garlic's odor acts as a natural repellent to many insects, including mosquitoes.

Next Homeownership Classes

NOV
10

How to Get to Know and Build Relationships with your Neighbors

November 10th 9:30-11:30

The Portland Water Bureau Presents Saving Water Makes Cents!: Learn about where Portland gets its water and how you can save water and money at home. Find tips for managing your water and sewer costs while being a good steward of our water supply. Participants get water conservation devices, including a showerhead!

Water Quality & Home Plumbing Maintenance: Learn how to protect your family from lead in water, and receive a FREE test kit. Get tips for maintaining your hot water heater, troubleshooting low water pressure, and other important drinking water quality issues.

Weatherize for Winter

November 10th, 12:30- 2:30

Join us for a free DIY workshops to learn how to implement simple measures to lower home energy use by installing effective weatherization materials using basic tools. Qualified participants can receive a free kit of weatherization supplies.

DEC
8

Kids and Money

December 8th, 9:30-11:30

Help your kids develop a healthy relationship with money. In this workshop, we'll talk about age appropriate ways to talk about money and tools to help your kids build money management skills.

Measure Twice, Cut Once

December 8th, 12:30-2:30

Planning a home repair or renovation can be overwhelming. Join Camian Larson, Renovation Coach and Design Consultant for a workshop on thinking through your project and how to screen and work with contractors.

JAN
12

Goal Setting for the New Year

January 12th, 9:30-11:30

What do you want to accomplish in 2019? Making a plan and sticking to it can be hard. Come learn how to set realistic and attainable goals that make you stretch your boundaries and grow as a person.

Understanding Your Escrow Analysis and Property Taxes

January 12th, 12:30-2:30

Don't understand why your mortgage payments keep going up every year? Come learn how to read your escrow analysis and what causes your payments to increase. We'll also talk about shopping around for homeowners insurance.

Sorry, no childcare or translation services provided. All classes will be held at our Homeownership Education Center at 1478 NE Killingsworth St. Portland 97211. **RSVP required.** 503-287-9529 x41 or lindsey@habitatportlandmetro.org



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Building Connections

Autumn 2018

Homeownership Education Program Updates

We're excited to announce that from July 2017 to June 2018, 138 people attended elective Homeownership Education Classes. We've received helpful feedback and are continually working to improve our classes. As we've doubled the number of classes we offer in the past year, we've worked really hard to recruit community partners and volunteers to facilitate some of these classes. Unfortunately, there are times that participants register but don't show up to class or show up late. It then becomes challenging for us to ask our volunteers and community partners to return to facilitate future learning opportunities. To make their efforts worthwhile, starting in October, we will be offering many of our classes to the general public for small materials fee-typically \$10.

In order to be able to plan and allocate resources wisely and honor the time and effort our facilitators put into our program we are also instituting new attendance requirements. Current and future Habitat homeowners and home repair participants are granted five scholarships per program year (October-September). Participants who register and show up to five classes may request additional scholarships. Those who register and do not attend or let us know they can no longer attend in advance will have one less scholarship each time they miss class. After five no-shows, that participant will be asked to pay the materials fee for each class they want to attend for the remainder of the program year.

We hope these classes continue to make a difference in your lives. If you have suggestions about class topics you would like to see offered or need interpretation services in order to attend classes, please contact us 503-289-9529 x36 or at homeownership@habitatportlandmetro.org



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