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 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.

Insects love damp environments, so eliminate moisture and wet spots. To do so, start by applying caulk to fix leaks around tubs and dryers. Check weather stripping on doors and windows, and repair holes in screens.

1. Seal and repair openings
2. Give your pets a dining space
3. Keep a clean kitchen
4. Keep a dry home
5. Clean up the yard
6. Make a homemade fruit fly trap
7. Practice mosquito management

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.

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
2. Give your pets a dining space
3. Keep a clean kitchen
4. Keep a dry home
5. Clean up the yard
6. Make a homemade fruit fly trap
7. Practice mosquito management

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.

Next Homeownership Classes

How to Get to Know and Build Relationships with your Neighbors
November 10th, 9:30-1:30
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.

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 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.

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.

Habitat for Humanity Portland/Metro East holds educational workshops for current and future Habitat homeowners and home repair program participants. To find out about other classes, events and opportunities, visit our website at habitatportlandmetro.org or call 503-287-9529 x41 or email lindsey@habitatportlandmetro.org.
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