

NEWSBERG

Welcome to the Newsberg weekly print newsletter!

We’re testing out some new ways to get news and events to the Newberg-Dundee community, and readers have continually asked for print. I’m never one to shy away from a challenge (and love a print product) so here it is!

Each newsletter, printed weekly, will be distributed around town for free and feature snippets from the week’s stories. You can scan the QR codes with your phone to read the full story at newsberg.org.

— **Branden Andersen**, *Founding Editor*



CPRD Board of Directors alongside Superintendent Clay Downing (far left) and Jan Sander (second from left) break ground at the Sander Estate on Wednesday, August 13 (Branden Andersen)

“For the Citizens of Dundee”: CPRD Breaks Ground on Sander Estate Park

CPRD broke ground on the long-awaited Sander Park last Wednesday, starting the process that started 8 years ago.

Branden Andersen
Founding Editor

DUNDEE, Ore. — On Wednesday, Aug. 13, Chehalem Park and Recreation District broke ground on the Sander Estate, beginning work to transform the 6.7-acre property on Fifth Street into a community park.

“It was such a good day for [land donor Jan Sander] emotionally after she went to the dedication and ceremony,” said John Kessler, Sander’s close friend and trustee. “It did mean a lot to her that something was actually beginning. It’s been a long road.”

Dundee resident Janis “Jan” Sander first approached the district in 2008 about donating the land, according to CPRD Board President Jim McMaster. At the time, McMaster was the district’s parks supervisor and project manager. The estate includes a home, farmhouse, barn, and a variety of fruit and nut trees.

Kessler said Sander and her family envisioned the land being donated “for the citizens of Dundee,” a phrase she often used when describing the future park.

Sander, now 84, lives in a memory care facility. Kessler drives her to medical appointments and often takes her past the property to check for progress. For years, there was none.

“It’s been years we’ve been driving by the park to see if anything has started,” he said. “So now to finally be able to drive by and see work done,

it’s going to be very exciting. She’s already asking me where I think they’ll start and what will be done first.”

Sander donated half of the estate to CPRD in 2017. The Chehalem Park Foundation helped purchase the other half to secure the full property.

Since then, CPRD has worked with neighbors, the city of Dundee, and the broader community to shape the park’s vision. Public surveys, open houses, and design sessions have guided plans for walking paths, gardens, a playground, splash pad, water features, and open spaces.

The master plan was developed by Portland-based Scott Edwards Architecture, the same firm behind the Chehalem Cultural Center and Aquatic and Fitness Center. Funding has come from multiple sources, including a \$630,310 Land and Water Conservation Fund matching grant from the National Park Service in 2023.

Development has been years in the making. Milestones include community meetings in 2018, removal of walnut and blighted filbert trees in 2019, and public hearings in 2020 and 2022. Most recently, a design for the splash pad was approved in April 2024.



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Bronco Kelly’s Prepares to Open in Former Ruddick/Wood Space

Bronco Kelly’s is bringing a saloon to Newberg, focused on creating a comfortable atmosphere with live music, local sourcing, and bar games.

By Branden Andersen
Founding Editor

NEWBERG, Ore. — Kelly Koch knows something is missing from the local nightlife scene. Koch and former business partner Steve Everley once worked to purchase the 1888 Building at First and Meridian streets, hoping to add a restaurant and nightlife concept to the ground floor. The partnership dissolved, but Koch said he couldn’t shake the feeling that Newberg still needed something.

“Newberg needs this,” he said. “I love Newberg — I live up on Chehalem Mountain. And the downtown area is nice, but it needs a little excitement. We want to make it more of a destination for people looking to go out and have a good time.”

That idea became Bronco Kelly’s, an upcoming “old-fashioned saloon” in the former Ruddick/Wood space at 720 E. First St., expected to open later this year. Koch said he’s building the kind of bar he misses, complete with locally sourced food and drinks, a stage for live music and dancing, pool tables, darts, and a relaxed atmosphere.

“My wife and I have been married for 45 years, and we used to go out dancing in our 20s and 30s all the time,” he said. “There were a lot of places to go dancing on the weekends, and unfortunately, something changed. We don’t have those places to go out and have a fun night out anymore.”



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UPCOMING EVENTS

- AUGUST 20**
6 p.m. —Heartwood Place Memory Care Silent Auction
Harvester Taproom, 20260 Main Street Northeast, Saint Paul
- AUGUST 21**
8:30 a.m. — Third Thursday Downtown Clean Up
Newberg Downtown Coalition, 210 N Blaine Street
- AUGUST 22**
4 p.m. — Western Hoe Down
Arbor Oaks Terrace Memory Care, 317 N Werth Blvd
- AUGUST 23**
8:30 a.m. — National Dog Day ‘Spoil your Dog’
Newberg Animal Shelter, 1591 S. Sandoz Rd.

COMMUNITY NEWS

EDITORIAL

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NEWSBERG

First Street Pub Resurrects as First Street Public House

After months of speculation, building owner Doug Petersen said he's ready to unveil the newest addition to downtown's bar and restaurant scene: the First Street Public House.

By Branden Andersen
Founding Editor

NEWBERG, Ore. — The First Street Pub has sat closed and vacant since the COVID-19 pandemic forced its shutdown. For nearly a year, however, passersby have noticed activity inside as workers routinely entered and exited, sparking curiosity about what was happening.

After months of speculation, building owner Doug Petersen said he's ready to unveil the newest addition to downtown's bar and restaurant scene: the First Street Public House.

"Everybody has some sort of story from the First Street Pub," Petersen said. "Let's not change it to some cute name. Let's keep the history of the building, but expand on it."

According to George Fox University's Mapping Our History project, the building at 611 E. First St. was built in 1910 and first housed the Newberg Drug Co. Though it changed names over the years, it remained a drugstore until 1995, when it became Jimmy G's Rackem Pool Hall. In 2006, it was converted into First Street Pub.

Petersen purchased the building out of receivership in 2020 without a clear plan. Many businesses and organizations expressed interest in leasing or dividing the space, but

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Petersen said he envisioned something else for the historic property.

"It's kind of just turned into an art project," he said. "I started messing around with it and thought I would hang on to this one to see if I could get the right operator. It's really been enjoyable."

As part of the transition from pub to public house, Petersen said he plans to introduce a more refined concept while keeping the traditional bar atmosphere. One side of the large space will feature lounge seating and a stage for live music, while the other will serve as a classic bar.

"It's kind of a high-low concept," he said. "Even in the décor — there's this nice French-type wallpaper, but also old ratty bicycles hanging on the wall. You'll see a lot of my style in there."

Petersen has partnered with Corey Taylor and Kim Lattig of Loam

Kitchen in Dayton and Ø Horizon Provisions, who will oversee restaurant operations. Both companies emphasize local sourcing — often so local that ingredients are harvested by hand.

"We wanted to find a way to elevate basic pub food, and I think Corey has the right idea," Petersen said. "He's really taking a look at the sauces and doing homemade sauces that can make the difference. Sourcing local ingredients to do the basics right."

Taylor and Lattig will continue running Loam Kitchen and Ø Horizon Provisions while managing First Street Public House as an expansion of their business.



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Comic Diaries

Created by Brittany Long Olsen

Want to get some road trip snacks for tomorrow?



Yeah, maybe a bag of chips & a candy bar.



ooh, this looks good! How about these?

ooh, these too!



15 MINUTES LATER:



BLO'25

See more of the Newsberg Funnies at Newsberg.org

NEWBERG NOTICES

Newberg Public Library to Close for Weeklong Repairs in September

The Newberg Public Library will close September 2 to 6 for repairs to the front entrance stairs and ramp, library officials announced. Contractors and library staff will also use the week to complete additional interior repairs.

Newberg to Conduct Smoke Testing on Sewer System

The City of Newberg will begin smoke testing its wastewater collection system this month to identify leaks, cross connections, and other defects. The work is scheduled for August and September. Crews will release a non-toxic, non-staining white or gray smoke into the system to help locate breaks and inflow points. City officials said the smoke has no odor and poses

no fire hazard.

Naturopathic Physician Opens Valley Holistic Health in Newberg

Dr. Jakob Schmidt, a naturopathic physician specializing in regenerative and root-cause medicine, has opened Valley Holistic Health in Newberg.

“Oregon in Summer Reverie” Opens at ART Elements Gallery

Art Elements Gallery is closing out the season with “Oregon in Summer Reverie,” a group show featuring three local artists that runs through Oct. 18 at the downtown Newberg art gallery.



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