



Portland Region

P.O. Box 11527  
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habitatportlandregion.org

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## Fraud alert! Home repair scams on the rise

Recently, we have received reports of contractors misrepresenting themselves as Habitat for Humanity or Habitat Home Repair. Your safety and trust are important to us, and we want to make sure homeowners know how to protect themselves.

### Please remember:

- **Habitat for Humanity does not go door-to-door or proactively approach homeowners for repair services.** All home repair projects begin with a homeowner applying directly to our program.
- **Legitimate Habitat staff will always provide identification and organizational details upon request.**
- **You should always verify a contractor's information,** even if they claim to represent a nonprofit. Ask for:
  - Company name
  - CCB (Construction Contractors Board) license number
  - Business card or written documentation

- **If something feels off, pause the conversation.** You can always contact Habitat for Humanity through our official phone number or website to confirm whether someone is affiliated with us.

We encourage homeowners to stay cautious and ask questions. **Never share your personal or financial information with unverified sources.** If you encounter suspicious activity, please report it to us and, if appropriate, to the Oregon Department of Justice.



Scan the QR code to file an online complaint with the Oregon DOJ.

## Questions? We're here to help!

### Warranty:

warrantyconstruction@habitatportlandregion.org  
503-287-9529 ext. 1318

### Payments & Mortgage:

Linda Tran, Lending and Compliance Manager  
linda.tran@habitatportlandregion.org | 971-806-3681

### General Support:

Rachel Anderson, Education and Post Purchase Manager  
rachel.anderson@habitatportlandregion.org | 503.287.9529 ext. 1330

Shaney Broome, Education and Post Purchase Coordinator  
shaney.broome@habitatportlandregion.org | 503.287.9529 ext. 1323

# Building Connections

Spring 2026



## In this issue

- Homeowner Leadership Council Updates
- Spring Home Maintenance Checklist
- Tax Preparation Assistance Programs
- Homeowner Education Classes & Events
- Fraud Alert: Home Repair Scams

## We are open!

Weekdays 8:30 am–4:30 pm  
Appointments recommended.  
Walk-ins welcomed.



## HLC updates

Habitat's Homeowner Leadership Council (HLC) has been diligently working to build community through leadership, advocacy, advisory, and training and education efforts. In February, HLC members Alex and Heather had the opportunity to bring these pillars to life at a national level. They joined nearly 500 housing advocates for Habitat on the Hill and called on Congress to take action.

HLC member Alex said the event's theme, "Our voices open doors," will continue to shape her work back in Portland.

"What moved me most from Habitat on the Hill were the profound stories I heard and the support I received when it was time to share my homeownership journey. It is so important to be able to put the experience of real people behind these policies."

Alex would like the HLC to create a training on developing and sharing personal stories as a way to build community and create social change. "We all have a story inside of us and that story has the power to move others toward change, whether it's potential homeowners, our neighbors, or elected officials."



If you'd like to share your story and help elevate the voices in your community, consider joining the HLC. Scan the QR code to go to the HLC webpage at [bit.ly/HabitatHLC](http://bit.ly/HabitatHLC).

## Spring into action!

The weather is warming, the days are lengthening, and your cleaning list is growing. Spring cleaning and home maintenance are crucial for preserving your property and keeping your home a safe and comfortable place to live.

Tackle your to-dos with some tried and true tips:

- Clean and organize storage areas: Decluttering first will help you maximize your storage space. Donate or discard items that you no longer need.
- Deep clean surfaces: Dust light fixtures and window trim, clean windowsills, wipe baseboards, walls, and window coverings. Wipe down high-touch areas like door knobs and switch plates.
- Reset your bedroom: Rotate and vacuum your mattress and wash heavy bedding.
- Refresh your refrigerator: Remove everything and wipe down all interior sides, shelves, and drawers. Use a brush or cotton swab to clean the gasket seam. Unplug your refrigerator and move it away from the wall to clean the coils and the floor underneath. Plug it back in and return contents to shelves. Be sure to edit the contents by checking for mold or out of date items.

What to do with your unneeded or unwanted usable items?

**Donate!** Habitat's Restores accept a variety of re-sellable household items. To learn more about donation guidelines and locations visit [pdxrestore.org/donate](http://pdxrestore.org/donate).

**Sell!** Make a little cash by listing your items on Craigslist, Offerup or even Facebook Marketplace.

**Give away!** Connect with your neighbors on your local Buy Nothing Facebook group. Buy Nothing is a national movement that focuses on hyper-local giving and community building. You can search for your local group by typing in Buy Nothing and your neighborhood name and request to join.

## Tax preparation assistance programs

The deadline for filing taxes is Wednesday, April 15 and it's a kicker year! Gather your tax documents today and reach out to a trusted free tax preparation program designed for low- to moderate-income taxpayers.



### AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Program

Providing in-person and virtual tax assistance to anyone, free of charge, with a focus on taxpayers who are over 50 and have low to moderate income. Call 888-227-7669 or visit [aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp-taxaide](http://aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp-taxaide) to learn more.



### MFS-CASH Oregon

Offering low-income families and individuals from every community and background in Oregon the tools and resources to begin building solid financial futures. Get your taxes done for free by an IRS-certified volunteer. Call 503-243-7765 for an appointment or visit [cashoregon.org](http://cashoregon.org) see if you qualify.



### MyFreeTaxes

Guiding you through the process of filing your own federal and state taxes. Learn more about this service offered by United Way at [myfreetaxes.com](http://myfreetaxes.com) or call 866-698-9435.



New for 2026:

## The Community Compass: HOAs for homeowners

*Navigating your neighborhood with confidence*

When you purchase a home in a community governed by a Homeowners Association (HOA), you automatically become a member of the HOA, with all the rights and responsibilities that come with it. When well run, an HOA can provide peace of mind for homeowners with well-maintained elements and clear neighborhood guidelines. When your HOA struggles, it can leave you wondering why you need one. The difference often comes down to how involved you and your neighbors are in your HOA community. This year, Habitat Portland Region is committed to equipping homeowners with the tools and information to find their way in an HOA.

Join us for a focused, five-hour mini-conference designed to cut through the confusion and empower every resident. Fully understand the documents that govern your neighborhood, like Bylaws and CC&Rs, and how they impact you. Dig into budgets and build confidence in understanding where your dues go. Whether you're looking to participate more effectively in your neighborhood or seeking the tools to understand the benefits and obligations of living in an HOA, this event offers actionable insights tailored specifically to Habitat homeowners.

### Why you should attend

- **Tailored learning:** Choose the topics that matter to you during breakout session.
- **Ask an expert:** Bring your questions and find clear answers.
- **Build practical skills** for effective communication, project planning, and financial oversight.
- **Connect** with neighbors and other Habitat homeowners over a complimentary networking lunch.

**Date:** Sat., June 20, 2026

**Time:** 9:30 am–2:30 pm (includes 30-min lunch break)

**Location:** 1478 NE Killingsworth Street

Register today at [bit.ly/habitatclasses](https://bit.ly/habitatclasses)! Registration includes complimentary lunch and HOA resource packet.

***Don't just live in your community; lead it, understand it, and shape it.***



## Homeowner Education workshops & events

Share ideas, build confidence, and connect with experts! Our education workshops are a great place to dig into topics that matter to homeowners.

### Container Gardening

*With Growing Gardens*

Sat., May 16, 10 am–12 pm | Main office

### SAFE Financial Beginnings #5: Savings & Retirement

*With Financial Beginnings*

Sat., May 30, 10 am–12 pm | Main office

### Summer Safety: Stay Cool & Breathe Easy

*With MultCo Health Department & PBEM*

Sat., June 6, 10 am–12 pm | Main office

### NEW PROGRAM ALERT! The Community Compass: HOAs for Homeowners

*Mini-conference (lunch included)*

Sat., June 20, 9:30 am–2:30 pm | Main office



Register now to learn new skills! Use the QR code to go to [bit.ly/habitatclasses](https://bit.ly/habitatclasses).

