

SUNNYSIDE

Neighborhood News

May 2011

Sunnyside News

By Reuben Deumling, SNA President

It is once again time for our neighborhood board elections. The date is May 12 and the event will be in the Fireside Room at Southeast Uplift, 3534 SE Main Street, from 7 to 9 p.m. As has been the pattern in years past, we will have food, drink, and a program as well. It is a potluck, so if you feel motivated to bring a dish to share, that would be appreciated. Our featured speaker will be Emily Hauth, a stormwater specialist from the Bureau of Environmental Services (and a Sunnyside resident). She will talk about Green Streets and how they fit into the city's plans to manage stormwater and improve the livability of our neighborhoods. If you plan to vote in our Sunnyside elections—and we hope you do—please bring identification and proof

of residence in Sunnyside. If you are considering running for the board, please come prepared to tell us a little about yourself and your interest in serving on the SNA board.

As you will learn below, plenty of interesting things are going on in Sunnyside. Several concerned neighbors of the Walgreens at SE Cesar Chavez and Belmont informed us at our April general meeting of plans to add a drive-through window at the store. Read more below for details. Lots of things are happening with community gardens both within Sunnyside and beyond its borders. To stay abreast of the happenings in Sunnyside, and to weigh in on matters of interest or concern, please visit any

of our electronic media, which are listed at the bottom of this page. The listserv has recently enjoyed a bit of a resurgence as a community bulletin board.

The Neighborhood Clean-up and Sunnyside Swap on April 16 were both resounding successes. Participation in *cont'd on page two...*

Are Drive-Through Pharmacies and Gas Stations Part of Our New Forward-Thinking Urban Planning Vision?

By Vincent Dawans

We recently learned that Walgreens is considering adding a drive-through window and a gas station to its Sunnyside store (corner of SE Cesar Chavez and Belmont). The latest plans call for a drive-through window on the southeast corner of the lot (SE 40th and Yamhill), and possibly a Fred Meyer gas station on the west side of the lot (along Cesar Chavez Boulevard). In order to accommodate the new drive-through, the current building's footprint would be reduced to about two thirds of its

current size.

Neighborhood residents only discovered the Walgreens and Fred Meyer plans when surveyors began working on the Walgreens portion in early April. Long-term residents might remember previous Walgreens drive-through applications in 1997 and 1999. Both were ultimately withdrawn or abandoned after public review and appeals.

While the earlier applications placed the drive-through at various locations within the existing parking lot, today's plan is even more likely to cause neighborhood disturbances since it calls for the drive-through to be *cont'd on page two...*

UPCOMING EVENTS | MAY

- 4th - Streetcar Planning Meeting
- 12th - Neighborhood Board Elections
- 12th - Sunnyside Employment Self Help Group Potluck, noon
- 28th - Naturescaping Workshop, Southeast Uplift, 9-1pm

Details can be found on our website under 'What's Happening in Sunnyside?'

MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings at Southeast Uplift unless noted

General Meeting
Thursday, May 12, 7 p.m.

Crime Prevention Committee
Thursday, May 12, 6:30 p.m.

Sustainability Committee
Monday, May 9, 6:00 p.m.

Land Use & Transportation Committee
Monday, May 9, 7:30 p.m.

Graffiti Clean-up
2nd & 4th Saturdays, weather permitting. Call 503-235-5047

SUNNYSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Hotline: 503-295-1699 • www.SunnysideNeighborhood.com



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or at the Sunnyside Listserv: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SunnysideNeighborhood/>



...cont'd from page one

Sunnyside News

both events was up, and I think it is fair to say that the co-location of the two events and masterful coordination by Karen Hery and her teams were excellent ideas. We're going to work on better signage and improved flow for next year's clean-up.

SNA and the Sunnyside Swap Shop Co-op are grateful to St. Stephen's Catholic Church for providing space for both events. Metro and the 2011 Neighborhood Small Grants Program provided funding that helped make this event possible. Thank you also to many local businesses—New Seasons, Zupan's Markets, Fred Meyer, La Petite Provence, and Noah's Bagels, who provided food for our volunteers; and to all the long-time and brand new volunteers from the neighborhood, Hands On Greater Portland, and Sunnyside Environmental School who made this event possible.

...cont'd from page one

Drive-Through Pharmacies

installed within the buffer zone designed to protect the abutting residential area. In addition, it appears that Walgreens is seeking to avoid requirements for a land use review, which would eliminate opportunities for public comments. The latest plan seems to be treating the drive-through and gas station applications as two different projects requiring different permits, so that if the gas station were to require a land use review, the drive-through application would not be impacted.

Of concern is not only the direct impact to abutting residential properties (increased traffic, noise from speaker

operations, fumes from idling cars, danger to pedestrians using the Belmont Library), but also increased traffic to the already dangerous and very busy Chavez-Belmont intersection, as well as the future livability of Sunnyside as a whole. Given Sunnyside's goal to pursue an end to our dependence on fossil fuels, as well as its support of local businesses with pedestrian-friendly streets, adding cars at this corner does not mesh with SNA's vision.

Although we do not object to Walgreens taking measures to increase their business, their current plan will have significant negative impact on the community of which they are a part, and their purported intent to avoid any public review is definitely cause for concern. A copy of this article as well as supporting drawings and documents are available at <http://sunnysidewalgreens.blogspot.com>.

Firwood Lake Update

By Elizabeth Kennedy-Wong and Susan Watt, PP&R

Hurray! The first phase of the Firwood Lake Restoration Project is complete. As part of this phase, sediment was removed increasing the pond's depth to eight feet. Additionally, three planter benches were created featuring native aquatic plant communities. Students from Sunnyside Environmental School helped with the work. Portland Parks and Recreation staff will plant the benches when the weather is warmer, probably in June or July. The pond is expected to be filled soon, after which the construction fencing will be taken down. Some fencing will be kept in place longer to protect the grass areas

until they are established.

The water currently in the pond is there because we are determining a treatment plan and installing piping that will circulate the water. Circulation will be an essential piece of helping to maintain a healthy system. Other aspects of the Phase 2 design are intended to help maintain the health of the pond's water quality. To deter algae growth the pond needs circulation, aeration, and probiotic treatments. Probiotics are bacteria that aid in controlling algae. The schedule for completing the Phase 2 work is April or May.

Thank you all for your ongoing support and patience as we work our way through this project.

Send Us Your Ideas for a Movie!

By Allen Field, RNA and Tim Brooks, SNA

For the second year in a row, the Sunnyside and Richmond Neighborhood Associations will put on a movie fundraiser at the Bagdad Theater in September 2011 (the date has not been chosen yet). Last year, the two neighborhood associations presented Gulliver's Travels with a live soundtrack performed by Filmusik, which involved voice actors, sound effects specialists, and a chamber orchestra.

This year, the film will be an afternoon matinee, most likely on Sunday, September 25, and all ages will be welcome. The two neighborhood associations are seeking ideas for the film, so please send your movie ideas to allen_field@yahoo.com or call the SNA hotline at 503-295-1699.

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Street Fair Volunteers Needed

By Tim Brooks, Street Fair Co-chair

We are getting a jump-start on the 2011 Belmont Street Fair and looking for volunteers to help us on the day of the event. The fair is set for September 10 this year, with new hours tentatively planned from noon to 8 p.m. Our theme is Imagine! Imagine no cars, imagine community gardens everywhere, et cetera. We'll talk more about this in coming months.

I am very pleased to be working with my co-chair Katie Schawaroch, owner of Hall of Records and new Belmont Area Business Association (BABA) board member. We are floating some new ideas such as an Artist Alley to highlight local artists, and a space for trainings and workshops hosted by our multi-talented neighbors like Dan who has offered to teach organic gardening, and Jane who will show us how to spin wool. New ideas for kids' activities and expanding the student-run farmer's market are also under discussion.

If you are interested in getting involved, please call our volunteer coordinator Josh Palmer at 503-287-1515. Our next meeting monthly meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. on May 4 at Bare Bones Café, SE 29th and Belmont. This event wouldn't happen without volunteers, so please consider joining us!

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New Community Gardens for Portland

By Dan Hannon, Friends of Portland Community Gardens

Portland's Community Gardens project has been tremendously successful. Portland has 37 community gardens throughout the city. At present, all garden spaces in all community gardens are taken. People who would like to have a community garden spot can contact Portland Community Gardens (503-823-1612) and sign up for a waiting list. However, many people wait as long as four years to get a 200-square-foot garden spot.

Although the City of Portland is very supportive of community gardens, its limited budget has prevented supply from keeping pace with demand. However, three new garden areas will soon be added to the total. A 15,000-square-foot site on the west side of Mt. Tabor will be ready by the summer of 2012. A new garden area on NE Sumner Street will be ready this summer, as well as an addition to the Vermont Hills garden in southwest Portland. Gardeners needn't stick to community gardens in their own section of Portland, but it makes sense to have a garden close to where you live. Consequently, southeast Portland residents would probably be most interested in the Mt. Tabor garden, and since availability is first come, first served, this is a good time to call the number above, ask for an application packet, and get your application back to the Community Gardens office.



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Tree Planting in Skinny Parking Strips

By Jeff Cole, SNA Coordinator for Friends of Trees

When walking or biking through Sunnyside, you may notice that some streets are leafy and shady while others have hardly any street trees at all. This is no accident. A major reason is that some areas have parking strips less than 2.5 feet wide. Typically, the City of Portland will not issue planting permits for skinny strips due to concerns with tree health and sidewalk integrity. In the portion of Sunnyside east of Cesar Chavez Boulevard, many curbside planting strips are only about 20 inches wide, and sometimes the sidewalk simply abuts the curb.

I am exploring possible workarounds to allow more Sunnyside neighbors to plant street trees. The city allows a sidewalk to be narrowed for existing trees—why not for new ones? This could range from cutting out a portion of sidewalk to creating an acceptable well for a tree, to removing a continuous strip of sidewalk.

Currently, some residents are planting trees in skinny strips without permits. Unfortunately, these efforts often introduce species not suited to a confined planting space. If a suitable approach can be agreed upon by concerned parties, Friends of Trees can work to bring suitable street trees to these skinny planting strips.

For a more detailed presentation of this issue, visit the SNA Web site.



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Blair Garden is Back

By Tim Brooks, SNA Board Member

March 26 was a fine day for the grand opening of Sunnyside Neighborhood's Blair Community Garden. The day began with a morning work party attended by volunteers from Hands On Greater Portland, Sunnyside residents, and representatives from Commissioner Fish's office. The raised beds were filled with garden soil, other beds were weeded, and the shed was stocked with tools.

Following the work party, the celebrating began with food and beverages provided by Laurelhurst Village, press interviews (Channel 12), photo shoots, and speeches by representatives from Portland

Community Gardens, Laurelhurst Village, the Commissioner's office, and SNA.

SNA is a proud parent of this new garden. Six years ago, SNA led the charge to secure this space for community garden use in perpetuity. Speakers at the grand opening celebration were generous in their praise for SNA's efforts.

I would like to recognize some of our partners in this effort. Dane Jensen, director of operations at Laurelhurst Village, has been a steadfast supporter and partner. Dane also raised funds, provided garden soil, repaired the garden shed and helped keep the momentum going to get us to opening day. We look forward to a long and fruitful continued partnership.

Leslie Pohl-Kosbau and Dan Franek of Portland Community Gardens helped

make this garden a reality. Dan organized all the garden work parties and put in many extra hours, rain or shine, to get the garden built. Leslie helped with all the logistics and found solutions when the usual ones didn't work.

Last but not least, Allen Field (on behalf of the Richmond Neighborhood Association) donated a wide array of tools to the garden, enough to fill all available wall space in the tool shed. Thanks, Allen!

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- Any opinions expressed, unless specified, are not necessarily those of the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association or its board. Sunnyside residents are welcome to submit articles for consideration that concern neighborhood issues, by calling the Hotline at 503-295-1699 and leave a message for the Editor. Many wonderful volunteer Sunnyside residents distribute the Neighborhood News.

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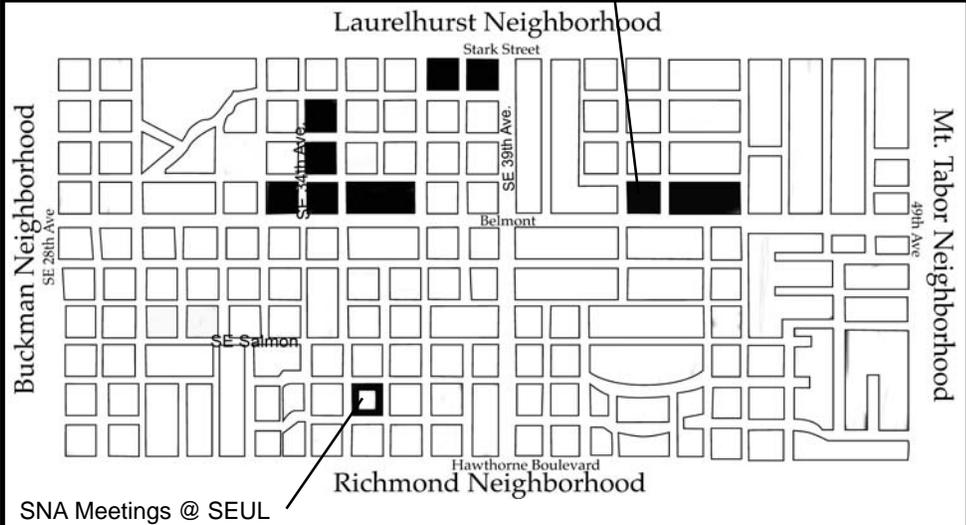
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Sunnyside Neighborhood Map



Laurelhurst Neighborhood

Buckman Neighborhood

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Richmond Neighborhood

SNA Meetings @ SEUL

Delivery help needed here