

SUNNYSIDE

Neighborhood News

July 2011

Sunnyside News

By Reuben Deumling, SNA President

Summer's here, and with it comes all sorts of fun. Concerts and Movies in the Park are free and worth putting on your calendars. We will have brochures about these events at SNA's July general meeting, or you can visit our electronic media for details. The Belmont Street Fair isn't for another few months, but if you'd like to get involved, read the article below for details. The SNA Sustainability Committee will be hosting a summer discussion course on "Choices for Sustainable Living." Sunday Parkways are off to a strong start this year. They take place once a month throughout the summer. If you missed the one on June 26 in north Portland, there are three more coming up: July 24 in northwest/downtown, August 28

in southeast; and September 25 in northeast. For more information visit www.portlandsundayparkways.org. In other news, many of you may have received a letter from the Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) informing you that you will be paying handsomely for the privilege of having your sewer connection regularized. For details see my article below. The protests against Walgreens' plans to build a drive-through at SE 40th and Yamhill are ongoing. For up-to-date information visit www.sunnysidewalgreens.com.

As always, we'd love to see you at any of our monthly SNA meetings, all of which are open to the public. Dates and times are listed on the front page

of the newsletter. For the most up-to-date information you can visit SNA's electronic media: Web site, Facebook, and listserv.

UPCOMING EVENTS | JULY

- 5th - Mt. Tabor Concerts in the Park Series Begins
Details can be found on our website under 'What's Happening in Sunnyside?'
- 9th - Sunflower Intersection Neighborhood Block Party
- 9th - Southeast Uplift Commons Work Party
- 17th - NWEI Organizational Meeting
- 24th - Northwest/Downtown Sunday Parkways
- 27th - Brooklyn Action Corps Meeting (re: Non-conforming sewers)
- 31st - "Choices for Sustainable Living" - First of eight weekly discussions

Call for Local Artists

By Tim Brooks, Belmont Street Fair Co-chair

Planning for the 2011 Belmont Street Fair is in full swing. This year, the fair is set for noon to 8 p.m. on Saturday, September 10.

The Street Fair planning committee is looking for local artists to showcase their work. This year we will have an "Artist Alley" on SE 34th Avenue with a focus on artists from Sunnyside and nearby neighborhoods. This area is reserved for artists, and booth spaces are available at reduced cost. We are also planning a workshop area, hosted by local artists and craftspeople, with demonstrations

offered throughout the day. Examples include workshops on spinning wool, organic gardening, and watercolor painting. If you are interested in the Artist Alley or in leading a workshop, now is the time to get in touch. Spaces will fill up on a first come/first served basis and costs increase after August 10. For more information or to obtain a vendor booth application form, visit <http://belmontdistrict.org/whats-happening/street-fair> or call 503-774-2832.

We also are looking for volunteers for the day of the event. This event wouldn't happen without volunteers, so please consider joining us! Free *cont'd on page two...*

MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings at Southeast Uplift unless noted

General Meeting
Thursday, July 14, 7 p.m.

Crime Prevention Committee
Thursday, July 14, 6:30 p.m.

Sustainability Committee
Monday, July 11, 6:00 p.m.

Land Use & Transportation Committee
Monday, July 11, 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



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



...cont'd from page one.

T-shirts with a cool new design this year (see sample illustration).



For more information, please call our volunteer coordinator, Josh Palmer, at 503-287-1515. Our next monthly meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 6, at Bare Bones Café, SE 29th and Belmont.

BES to Upgrade Nonconforming Sewers – Who Pays?

By Reuben Deumling

According to the Bureau of Environmental Services map we received from Matt Hickey last year, just over 100 households in Sunnyside have sewer connections that are deemed out of compliance. Many of us received letters in June asking us to return a signed and notarized form committing to pay between \$6,100 and \$18,300 in anticipation of BES installing a proper sewer in the street (according to Matt, this work is expected to be performed in 2013-2014).

Communication from BES on this issue has been rather terse, and some

of us feel that we'd like to understand better what our options are, whether all of this proposed work is necessary, and if there might be other solutions besides the one outlined by BES. I've communicated with Commissioner Saltzman's office, with BES, and with other neighborhood leaders across the city about this issue. We've also discussed this on our neighborhood listserv.

Our nonconforming sewer connections fall into at least two categories:

- 1) Party lines where the connection from the drain pipe does not go straight to the public right of way but crosses a neighbor's property first.
- 2) Private sewer lines that were installed in the public right of way.

In the second letter I received from BES in June, mention was made of the rules governing this issue: Portland city code 17.33, which can be found at www.portlandonline.com/auditor/index.cfm?c=28860. A number of questions remain unanswered, however. What are estimated total costs to homeowners of these "upgrades"? These include the cost of permits, the cost to connect up to the city sewer, as well as the Public Sewer Utility Waiver mentioned above. How much of this work can or must be performed by a contractor or the homeowner? And finally, what is the logic by which homeowners are being compelled to pay for these upgrades to sewer lines, some of which are already in the public right of way?

One problem seems to be that the nonconforming sewers come in many flavors, and BES is treating them all more or less the same. We are hoping

to convince them to take a closer look at the particulars, especially where we feel that the sewers deemed noncompliant are (or may be—they haven't checked) physically identical to compliant sewers on other blocks.

Feel free to join the conversation on our listserv, or to attend the event organized by the Brooklyn Action Corps, which is asking as many people as possible to attend their general meeting at 7 p.m. on July 27 at the Loaves and Fishes Center (SE Milwaukie and Center Street) to discuss the nonconforming sewer issue. Commissioner Saltzman has also been invited to speak.

NWEI Discussion Course on Choices for Sustainable Living

By Rich Schwartz, Sunnyside Resident

This summer, the SNA Sustainability Committee will be hosting the Northwest Earth Institute's course "Choices for Sustainable Living." The course will meet weekly on Sunday evenings, beginning July 31, for a total of eight weeks.

As stated on their Web site (www.nwei.org), NWEI's courses "provide an enjoyable, supportive setting in which to examine personal values and habits, engage in stimulating conversation, create meaningful community, and consider ways to take action towards creating a more sustainable future."

The cost for the class is \$25, on

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a sliding scale. All participants will receive a copy of the course guidebook, which is a series of articles centered on a different topic each week. We will read the articles (about an hour's worth of reading) and then discuss them at our weekly gatherings. The 90-minute discussions will be facilitated by the participants, and will typically consist of our personal reactions to the readings and reflection on how the topics affect our lives. Topics to be covered include "A Call to Sustainability," "Ecological Principles," "Buying," "Food," "Communities," "Business and Economy," and "Visions of Sustainability."

If this sounds like something you might be interested in, please come to an organizational meeting in Laurelhurst Park (at the tables next to the tennis courts, SE 37th and Oak) on Sunday, July 17, at 7 p.m. There you can ask questions, look over the course book, meet other participants, and pay your registration fee.

For more information, or to register without attending the July 17 meeting, call Rich at 503-235-8469.

Get Involved in Research about SE Portland Neighborhood Nature

By Sarah Church, University of British Columbia

What are the benefits of small-scale natural areas in our neighborhoods? Your participation in a study about watershed health and neighborhood nature will help researchers find out more about the benefits of small-scale neighborhood-oriented nature.

Sarah Church, a Ph.D. candidate from the University of British Columbia (and former Portlander), is looking for people to take part in research about neighborhood nature. Through a conversation and interview of approximately one hour, you will be asked to explore your experiences with and thoughts on watershed health projects like rain gardens, bioswales, and habitat restoration, and how those experiences relate to social, civic, and environmental issues. Participants should be familiar with neighborhoods from Mount Tabor to the Willamette River (between SE Hawthorne and SE Powell Boulevards). You don't need to have direct experience with any of these types of projects to participate. For more information or to participate, contact Sarah at churchsp@interchange.ubc.ca or 208-310-2841, or sign up at <http://churchsp.wordpress.com/dissertation-research/research-sign-up-form>.

SNA Discovers New Strength

By Tim Brooks, SNA Board Member

We don't look like your typical bowling pros, or even the Lebowski variety, and we're not. Some of us haven't bowled in years. And we've never bowled together as a team. But to our astonishment, on the evening of April 25, the SNA Bowling Team won the Southeast Uplift Volunteer Appreciation Bowling Night trophy! Bill Stites, Paul Loney, Alejandra Favela, and I had an average score of 125 per person per game, enough to earn SNA a gold (colored) bowling pin inscribed with "The best bowling team in all the SE Uplift Coalition area." Woohoo! During the party, several volunteers with substantive accomplishments

were also honored. These volunteers—who have gone above and beyond for the community this past year— included:

- Pete Jacobsen, Southeast Uplift Board Treasurer
- Terah Beth Varga of Our Happy Block
- Steve Couche, Mickie Harshman, Sean Barnett, Eric Hollstein, and Emily Hauth of SE Portland Tool Library
- Zachary Michaud, Jacob Wollner, Ajai Huja, Moonrose Doherty, Jessica Stevens, and Candice Jordan of North Tabor Neighborhood Association
- Sellwood-Moreland Neighborhood Association for their efforts on the Sellwood Bridge

Thank you to these volunteers and thank you to Southeast Uplift for hosting this entertaining event. We also want to thank all of SNA's many hard-working volunteers for going above and beyond for your neighborhood. Thank you!

Sunflower Intersection Neighborhood Block Party

By Suzanne Tom, Sunnyside Resident

There will be a neighborhood block party on Saturday, July 9, at the intersection of SE 33rd and Yamhill. If you want to get involved in neighborhood meetings concerning the Sunnyside Piazza, contact Suzanne at suzanne@cityrepair.org or 503-737-8512



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Help Us Build the Southeast Uplift Commons!

By Tim O'Neal, Southeast Uplift

Southeast Uplift, the nonprofit neighborhood coalition representing 20 neighborhood associations in southeast Portland, is continuing work to convert our grounds at 3534 SE Main into a valued community space. Last year, with a grant from East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, we pulled up 300 square feet of asphalt in our parking lot and replaced it with a bioswale. We also built two rain gardens to collect stormwater from our roof. The projects are treating runoff from nearly 4,000 square feet of impervious surface!

With a second grant from EMSWCD

we will replace 3,000 square feet of grass and invasive weeds with native plants. We are partnering with the Herb Shoppe on Hawthorne to include medicinal plants and habitat for native pollinators. Our vision for the space includes native plants with signage to show visitors what they're seeing, a meandering trail through the site, and a sitting area for our tenants and visitors. We hope to host workshops on

medicinal plants and to provide garden space for the community to share in the future.

This project will rely on support from volunteers to help with the work, and input from the community to make the space something people in the neighborhood can enjoy. The first work party will be held on Saturday, July 9. We will be pulling up invasive plants, covering up grass, and marking future trails. If you're interested in helping, contact Tim at tim@southeastuplift.org or 503-232-0010, ext. 313.



Introducing the 2011-2012 Sunnyside Neighborhood Association Board of Directors. From left: Reuben Deumling, Tim Brooks, Heather Wilson, Tony Jordan, Paul Loney, Bill Stites, Karen Hery, Josh Palmer, and Gina Binole

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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.

Sunnyside Neighborhood Map

