

SUNNYSIDE

Neighborhood News

May 2017

Neighborhood News

By Tony Jordan, Sunnyside Neighborhood Association President

I am writing this month's column immediately following our special membership meeting to adopt the proposed SNA bylaws. This has been a longstanding goal of mine and I am happy to say that the bylaws were unanimously approved. They will go into effect on June 1st, 2017. The new bylaws will provide more flexibility to the SNA board to make changes to the newsletter schedule and run meetings with slightly less formal rules. In addition, future board elections and general membership meetings will be more inclusive and welcoming due to the removal of proof-of-residency requirements for voting.

I'm also happy to report that our April meeting was informative and productive. We were informed by Portland Public Schools that additional fencing will be installed along the north and east sides of the park/playground at the Sunnyside School. The NE corner of the park will remain available for public use at all times. Your board chose, in a 5-3 vote, to pass a resolution in support of better tenant protections presented by Portland Tenants United. The board also provided comment on the city's Design Overlay Zone Assessment Project. The board recommended that city staff conducting design reviews be limited to design elements only and not be allowed to restrict by-right height and floor-area-ratio entitlements.

I hope to see many of you at our board elections on May 11th at the Sunnyside Community House.

Board Elections Coming Up In May

By Tony Jordan, Sunnyside Neighborhood Association Chair

SNA board elections are happening this month! The 2017 board elections will be held from 7:00-9:00 p.m., May 11 in the Labyrinth Room at the Sunnyside Community House which is located at 3520 SE Yamhill St., just east of the Sunnyside Environmental School playground and park.

There are four positions up for election. There are, as of April 17th, two announced candidates. If you would like to run for the board you can send an email to board@sunnysideneighborhood.com with your intention and an optional candidate statement. Board members can expect to spend up to 10 hours a month on SNA activities, depending on committee assignments and the projects they undertake.

You can serve on the board if you are: a Sunnyside resident (renter or homeowner), an owner of property in Sunnyside, or a designated representative of a business, church, non-profit, or school located in Sunnyside. You must be 18 years of age or older. There are no length of residency requirements for board eligibility.

You can visit <https://sunnysideneighborhood.wordpress.com/board/elections/> for more information and candidate statements.

UPCOMING EVENTS | MAY

- 5th – Deadline for Belmont Area Business Association Mini-grant*
- 9th – Piazza Pizza Party Fundraiser, 5-10 p.m. Escape from New York Pizza*
- 11th – Tech Help, noon-2 p.m., Belmont Library*
- 20th – Red Tail Angels: Legendary American Aviators, 4-5 p.m., Belmont Library*
- 20th – Education Town Hall, 1-3 p.m., Sunnyside Community House*
- 21st – Resume Help, 1-3 p.m., Belmont Library*
- 24th – Introduction to Solar, 6-7:30 p.m., Belmont Library*
- 25th – Tech Help, 12-2 p.m., Belmont Library*

JUNE

- 3rd – Piazza Sunflower Re-Painting, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., SE 33rd & Yamhill*
- 24th – Conversation Project: Power, Privilege, and Racial Diversity in Oregon, 3 p.m., Southeast Uplift 3534 SE Main St.

* See articles for details

MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings at Southeast Uplift unless noted

Board Meeting

Thursday, May 11, 7-9 p.m.

NOTE: SNA Board Elections will be held at this time in the Sunnyside Community House Labyrinth Room, 3520 SE Yamhill St

Land Use & Transportation Committee

Tuesday, May 2, 7-8 p.m.

Sunnyside Prepared

No public meeting in May.

Please check www.sunnysideprepared.com for location, minutes, and agenda.

Graffiti Clean-Up

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

SUNNYSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
www.SunnysideNeighborhood.com

Conversation Project: Power, Privilege, and Racial Diversity in Oregon

By Reuben Deumling

Oregon Humanities has set up what they call the Conversation Project, which provides opportunities for Oregonians to talk—across differences, beliefs, and backgrounds—about important issues and ideas. A member of the Sunnyside Neighborhood suggested we look into hosting a conversation, and we did. The topic we chose, from an extensive list is about Power, Privilege and Racial Diversity. We will hold this conversation on Saturday afternoon, June 24th from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at Southeast Uplift. We hope many of you can attend and participate. Here are some details:

Although census data show Oregon's population becoming more racially diverse, the perception persists that we are one of the whitest states in the nation. Many Oregonians value racial diversity and the dimension and depth it adds to our lives, yet we remain largely isolated from one another and have yet to fulfill the vision of a racially integrated society. Willamette University professor Emily Drew will lead participants in a conversation that explores some of the causes of this continued isolation and the differences of experience between Oregonians of different races—such as institutional racism, white privilege, and unconscious bias. What systems are in place to prevent the racial integration and equity many of us strive for? Knowing what we do, how do we act—as individuals and communities—to embrace the opportunity presented by a more diverse Oregon?

The event is free and open to the public. We will provide refreshments. Please RSVP to 9watts@gmail.com.



It's Banner Year on Belmont

By Karen Hery

It's been a long time since a trolley went down Belmont and over five years since the trolley themed banners promoting the Belmont Business District were installed on telephone poles up and down SE Belmont.

Belmont Business District banners recently got a face-lift, thanks to funds raised during the 2016 Belmont Street Fair and a generous \$2,500 district identity grant from Venture Portland, a local, city-funded organization tasked with supporting Portland's over 50 unique business districts.

Up and down SE Belmont from 12th to 60th, motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians now see bright yellow and green banners on telephone poles on both sides of the street instead of the old turquoise and orange trolley icon banner signs.

"The old signs were mounted at a height and with brackets that were more vulnerable to wind and tall trucks passing by. The new banners have been raised and installed more securely," says Jim McCarter, Sunnyside business property owner and volunteer treasurer for the Belmont Area Business Association which coordinated the grant application and installation.

The Belmont Area Business Association, which supports home and public businesses on and near Belmont, Morrison and Stark from 12th - 60th, offers its own small pocket grant program. Pocket grants support grassroot efforts to grow business and improve the look of any pocket/area of the district.

Anyone wishing to work with at least three Belmont area businesses to develop a one-time event or street side improvement can ask for \$500 in matching grant funds.

This year's grant applications are due on Friday, May 5th which is late notice for developing a proposal from scratch for this year but plenty of time to plan ahead for next year's application cycle. All grant information is posted on the Belmont District web site: www.belmontdistrict.org.

The Belmont Area Business Association is looking forward to showing off all the new district banners up and down Belmont during this year's 22nd Annual Belmont Street Fair set for Saturday, September 9th, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Over 70 vendors of food, arts and crafts, social services and more have already requested booths at the fair. If you or someone you know wants a booth, they should make a request at Ticket Tomato using the search phrase "Belmont Street Fair".

Dangerous Intersection at 42nd and SE Belmont

By Shelley Bedell

Over the last several years, increased traffic on Belmont has made the intersection at 42nd a fatality waiting to happen. Robust businesses between 42nd and 49th have brought more visitors to our neighborhood. New condo units and new residents will continue to impact the traffic congestion on this narrow street. The traffic flow from Cesar Chavez east to 49th is unencumbered by any traffic signals or signs.

This is insufficient to assist pedestrians, cyclists, or motorists to safely navigate this intersection.

A collective voice from our Sunnyside neighborhood residents can make a difference in producing a safer intersection for all of us. Restricting parking close to the corners will improve visibility of pedestrians waiting to cross and help motorists turn onto Belmont. Crossing treatments can help pedestrians and bicyclists cross this designated bikeway.

Have your voice heard at an upcoming Land Use and Transportation Committee meeting where street safety modifications are discussed.

Our goal is to enable all residents and visitors to our neighborhood to safely navigate our streets.

Education Town Hall Meeting

By Pat Schwiebert

In response to the funding crisis in Oregon public education, Portland Association of Teachers, Reynolds Education Association and Canby Education Association are hosting a town hall on education funding. The event will include a brief panel made up of education leaders and economists presenting the legislative and tax background of our current situation. Several legislators have been invited to attend. After the panel discussion the floor will open for community comments. Legislators will have an opportunity to respond.

The meeting will be on Saturday, May 20, 2017 1 to 3 p.m. at the Sunnyside Community House at 3520 SE Yamhill St.

What's Happening At The Belmont Library?

By Cyndi Rosene

Do you want to inspire people to read this summer? Volunteer with the Summer Reading program (<https://multcolib.org/summer-reading-0>)! As a volunteer, you will help people sign up for the game, award prizes, talk with people about books, and more. Teens 6th grade and up as well as adults are invited to apply to join our team of volunteers as Summer Reading assistants. Volunteer shifts begin on June 16 and end on August 31. For more info see <https://multcolib.org/volunteer/volunteer-summer-reading-team>.

Check out our adult program lineup for May:

Thursday May 11 and 25, 12 to 2 p.m., Tech Help

Meet one-on-one for 30 minutes with a friendly, knowledgeable Tech Helper who will help you with mobile devices, websites, downloading, e-readers and more. If you need help with a mobile device please bring it with you. Registration required; register online, in the library or by calling 503-988-5123.

Saturday May 20, 4 to 5p.m., Red Tail Angels: Legendary American Aviators

The first African American fighter pilots to fly and fight for their country, the "Red Tail Angels" blazed a trail of glory in the frozen skies over Germany in WWII. Led by Col. Benjamin Davis, they fought Nazi tyranny abroad and helped end segregation in the Armed Forces at home. Registration required; register online, in the library or by calling 503-988-5123.

Sunday May 21, 1 to 3 p.m., Resume Help

Meet with an experienced volunteer for one-on-one help. Bring a paper copy of your resume if you have one. First-come, first-served.

Wednesday May 24, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Introduction to Solar

Learn why solar is a smart choice for Oregon. Topics include: how solar works in Oregon's climate, available solar technologies and how they fit into your overall energy use; assessing your site for solar; how financial incentives and tax credits can cover up to 80% of the cost; and ownership, leasing, power purchase and financing options. Registration required; register online, in the library or by calling 503-988-5123.

For more programs and information please drop in and see us, Belmont Regional Library, 1038 SE Cesar Chavez Blvd, give us a call (503) 988-5123, or find us online www.multcolib.org. Multnomah County Library programs are always free of charge.

2017 Sunnyside Piazza Sunflower Re-Painting

By Tiffany Conklin, Sunnyside Piazza Coordinator

For almost 20 years, the community has come together to paint a sunflower in the heart of Sunnyside at SE 33rd & Yamhill. Even though our city and neighborhood is quickly changing, the sunflower is always here to welcome us home. Sunnyside Piazza was City Repair's second project, which aimed to reclaim intersections for people, as places for art and community-building. In an effort to create community-oriented spaces, local residents painted a huge sunflower in the middle of the intersection at SE 33rd & Yamhill, installed multiple metal art sculptures around it, and placed planter barrels at each corner to calm traffic and demarcate the space. Ever since then, the people of Portland have maintained this intersection during an annual community-lead repainting event.

A lot of planning and effort goes into making this happen every year. This project completely depends on community support. For the past two years, it has been organized by sunflower neighbors of the Portland Street Art Alliance (pdxstreetart.org), with invaluable financial support from neighbors and local businesses.

Escape from New York Pizza on Belmont has graciously agreed to continue to host the annual Piazza Pizza Party Fundraiser, happening on Tuesday night May 9th from 5 to 10 p.m. 30% of all proceeds that night will go towards refreshing the Piazza. Come eat, drink, and plan with the crew!

Please also consider contributing by making a tax-deductible donation online at GoFundMe.com/SunnysidePDX. You can also follow Sunnyside Piazza on Facebook and Instagram (@SunnysidePiazza) for updates and news throughout the year.

On painting day, the Sunflower Team is in need of volunteers to assist with managing paint distribution and overseeing children's activities. Painting day this year will be Saturday June 3rd (postponed to June 10th if inclement weather). If you're interested in volunteering, please email SunnysidePiazza@gmail.com.

Come together and help us keep this intersection always sunny!

PLAY PIANO!

Piano Lessons
by Amie Rose



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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 emailing
newsletter@sunnysideneighborhood.com. Many
wonderful volunteer Sunnyside residents distribute
the Neighborhood News.

Sunnyside Community House Update

By Pat Schwiebert, Sunnyside Community House

More change is in the wind at Sunnyside Community House. The carpet and labyrinth were removed in the social room on the first floor, and the original wood floor was restored, making it more suitable for multi-purpose use by community groups.

Meanwhile, on the outside, a building contractor is in the midst of repairs to the parapets atop the main tower on the corner of SE 35th Ave. and Yamhill Street. The repairs will eliminate the danger that pieces of concrete could come loose and injure persons on the sidewalk below.

But the biggest news this month is that the Annual Conference has decided not to sell the building but to continue to make improvements to the structure and to offer space for use by neighborhood groups. Just last week, United Methodist District Superintendent Erin Martin announced that the Rev. Courtney McHill will be appointed to begin an organizing process leading to the formation of a new neighborhood-based faith community. Courtney will begin her new assignment on July 1, 2017.

For more information about Sunnyside Community House, phone Pat at 503-706-6583.

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