

SUNNYSIDE

Neighborhood News

November 2010

Sunnyside News

By Reuben Deumling, SNA President

Day to day, your Sunnyside Neighborhood Association board works on a variety of topics: numerous land use issues, new initiatives, school-related matters, transportation concerns, current events, graffiti removal, sustainability initiatives, and the list goes on. Many people come to us with concerns, complaints, wish lists, project ideas, or to request our support. We manage to do a lot alongside our jobs and families and other obligations. We (generally) have fun doing these things, and like any group, enjoy our successes, however small some may seem. But my point in detailing what we do is to point out something that doesn't get much attention amidst day-to-day issues—we don't spend much time talking or thinking about our collective ability to weather adversity.

Good Neighbor Agreements

By Bill Stites, SNA Board Member

It's getting lively on Belmont again, and in these trying times that is very good news. We're seeing a steady stream of new businesses opening up, particularly between SE 33rd and SE 34th Avenues (see what adding bike parking does?).

All neighborhoods are encouraged by the Office of Neighborhood Involvement to engage in dialogue and create relationships with businesses, especially new ones requesting a liquor license. The means for doing this is typically

Some of you might feel that time for such things is a luxury, that more immediate concerns should take precedence. While they generally do, I wanted to identify a short list of pressing issues we've touched on but we've considered incorporating into our meetings more directly:

- earthquake preparedness,
- reducing dependence on fossil fuels, and, tying both of these together,
- neighborhood resilience.

Our struggle to devote time to these matters may parallel your own decision-making. I know I have done pitifully little to ready my house or prepare my family for the event of a serious earthquake and its aftermath. Weaning ourselves off fossil fuels, of course, is a much larger challenge.

a Good Neighbor Agreement (GNA). GNAs help prevent or anticipate the most common problems, and provide clear lines of communication to solve issues before they become big problems. Typical items covered are sidewalk access, smoking issues, and the granddaddy of them all—after-hours noise.

Such agreements are generally engaged in a one-on-one fashion with individual businesses. However, with so many recent liquor license requests for Belmont, we are looking into creating a Group GNA for several blocks along the street. This has been done *cont'd on page two...*

Other responsibilities always crowd these out. Life goes on, and we're still okay, right?

If you feel an urgency about any of the issues listed, we would love to get your input, your energy, and your ideas. We could do more about these larger concerns as your neighborhood board, but not without your help. Some of you *cont'd on page two...*

UPCOMING EVENTS | NOVEMBER

13th - Blair Community Garden work party, 9:30am-11:30am

13th - Fall Clean-up, 9am-Noon

20th - SES Book Sale, 9am-6pm

DECEMBER

4th - SES Winter Craft Fair, 10am-4pm

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

MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings at Southeast Uplift unless noted

General Meeting
Thursday, November 11, 7 p.m.

Crime Prevention Committee
Thursday, November 11, 6:30 p.m.

Sustainability Committee
Monday, November 8, 6:00 p.m.

Land Use & Transportation Committee
Monday, November 8, 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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...cont'd from page one

Sunnyside

may have made more progress toward these goals as individuals or even on your block. Tell us about what you've done. Help shape our upcoming agendas. Consider submitting an article for this newsletter.

We now have so many electronic media at our disposal, this discussion could easily continue on our Web site (which is actually formatted as a blog), our listserv, or on our Facebook page.

What would we like our neighborhood to be like in the (near) future? What would be possible that isn't possible now?

...cont'd from page one

Good Neighbor

successfully before for upper Hawthorne, which has a plethora of liquor-licensed establishments. The main advantage of a Group GNA is that it brings together area businesses and concerned neighbors to talk. As business owners get to know each other, they tend to support each other's participation as they recognize and benefit from cooperation.

GNAs are not legally binding, which is actually good for reducing barriers to participation. This is very healthy for the community, and also helps to make new businesses welcome. This process has been on our agenda at the last two SNA land use and transportation committee meetings, and will be on our next agenda as well. Please see the front page of this newsletter for meeting times and places, and get involved!

Southeast Uplift Depave Work Party

By Tim O'Neal, Southeast Uplift Sustainability Coordinator

The Southeast Uplift staff and board of directors are working to lessen our organization's impact on the environment, and to transform the grounds at 3534 SE Main into an attractive greenspace for our neighbors to enjoy. With a grant from the East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District we recently got started on the grounds work. Through a partnership with the Depave Project, 20 volunteers pried up 280 square feet of asphalt from the parking lot to make way for a vegetated swale that will collect 100 percent of the stormwater runoff from the parking lot. We also broke up 120 square feet of concrete from the lawn to let water soak into the ground and make way for other improvements.

The Oregon Tradeswomen recently deconstructed a deteriorating shelter and used the materials to make a picnic table and some chairs. We hope to surround these with a naturesscaped oasis in the next year to provide a space for neighbors to enjoy. We will also be constructing rain gardens next to the building to collect stormwater runoff from the roof.

The work has only just begun. If you're interested in volunteering to help improve our little slice of Sunnyside, contact Tim at 503-232-0010, extension 313, or tim@southeastuplift.org.

Seal It Up, But Don't Forget to Check for Radon

By Michele Gila, SNA Secretary

With the summer heat behind us, neighbors are reaching for thermostats and sweaters. If you live in one of Sunnyside's older homes, you might also be considering numerous projects for weatherizing your home. One option is to have an energy audit conducted at your home. The Energy Trust of Oregon (www.energytrust.org) offers this service for free. For a more comprehensive evaluation, you might choose to hire a specialist such as Imagine Energy (www.imagineenergy.net). Both organizations have Web sites with information and ideas. Heat lost through cracks around doors, windows, and moldings can be easily corrected using caulk and similar products. Upgrading windows, stormdoors, and insulation will go a long way to saving energy and money while adding comfort and value to your home.

When sealing a home against winter cold and summer heat, you might be inviting danger in the form of radon exposure. The World Health Organization recently raised the bar and suggests mitigation at levels over 2.7 pCi/L, compared with the EPA, which has an action level of 4 pCi/L. Portland is home to several businesses that conduct radon testing and install mitigation systems. You can purchase a test kit for about \$10, but it might not be as accurate as a professional. The Richmond neighborhood has one such business, Cascade Radon, and more information can be found at www.cascaderadon.com.

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After 25 Neighborhood Clean-ups Gary Ballou Steps Down

By Gary Ballou



After organizing the SNA clean-ups twice a year since the late 1990s, it's time for me to step aside and let another neighbor take the reins. Our Fall Clean-up on Saturday, November 13, will be my last as clean-up organizer. It's been a lot of fun working with neighbors and dedicated volunteers! Next year's Spring Clean-up promises to be a new event, featuring exciting new connections with local schools and organizations.

Metro's Sustainability Center and Southeast Uplift both deserve special thanks, since they have been the principal underwriters for our clean-ups all these years. In spite of the downturn in the economy, they have managed to maintain some level of funding, albeit much reduced from the peak years not so long ago.

St. Stephen's Catholic Church has been the best, allowing us to stage our events in their spacious parking lot. Their generosity has allowed us to have one of the best clean-up sites in the city. It is large, has good traffic flow, and is in a convenient location. Cloudburst Recycling has been our regular hauler since the beginning. The drivers all know how we operate and we get superior service. A big hats-off to them!

And thank you to all the folks who have lent volunteer help. A special thank you to Bill and Martha Wheeler, Tom and Tara Roidt, Darci Rudzinski and Mimi Doukas, Tom Badrick, Mary Glenn,

Rhonda VanderSluis, Michael Benware and Bonita Davis—some of the most dedicated long-time neighbors I've ever met. The clean-ups would never happen without your help.

Fall Clean-up details:

Date: Saturday, November 13

Time: 9 a.m. to noon, or until dumpsters are full—whichever comes first

Where: St. Stephen's Catholic Church parking lot, SE 42nd and Taylor Street

Cost: \$6 per carload, \$10 per SUV/wagon, \$14 per pick-up/truck/van

Items We Can Accept: Mixed solid waste, non-recyclable materials, wood and bulky waste. Boards are considered wood waste and old doors and furniture are bulky waste, so they will be accepted. We will accept reusable household discards, and the Rebuilding Center will be on hand to recycle any reusable building materials.

Items We Can't/Won't Accept:

- Yard debris—this can now be recycled as part of your regular household recycling pickup, so we will not accept yard debris at our clean-up. Yard debris is described as grass, weeds, branches, and tree trimmings.
- Televisions, monitors, and household electronics—these can be recycled at the new Metro e-cycling locations. Visit www.deq.state.or.us/lq/ecycle/ or call 888-5-ECYCLE (532-9253).
- Block Styrofoam or packing peanuts—call the Metro hotline (503-234-3000) for recycling locations nearest you.

Swan Song for a Quad Leader

By Jane Pullman, SNA Treasurer

Nine years ago I read a little article in the Sunnyside newsletter just like this one. The Sunnyside Neighborhood Association was looking for someone to be a quad leader. I had just moved back into the neighborhood and I wanted to get to know my neighbors and be part of something, so I said I would be a newsletter coordinator. Fast forward nine years. As quad leader, I receive about 1,100 newsletters delivered to my porch once a month. I bundle up 17 stacks and deliver those stacks to 17 individuals who, in turn, walk their routes and deliver newsletters one door or apartment building at a time. I have met many great people who walk door to door year after year to deliver the most local news there is. If you think about it, the Sunnyside newsletter is the one piece of written news that we all have in common. It's also the most local news I can think of. The newsletter is full of articles about the goings on that make Sunnyside Sunnyside. Businesses advertise, too. It's quite a tradition and I have been proud to be a part of it for the last nine years. Now my job is open for someone else. If you would like to be a Sunnyside newsletter quad leader, call the SNA hotline (503-295-1699).



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SES Students Hard at Work, Helping Ensure Healthy Neighborhood Ecosystems

By Gina Binole, SNA Board Member

As part of the curriculum at Sunnyside Environmental School, students participate in field studies on a consistent basis, beginning in third grade. K-2 children also engage in field studies on a more informal basis, focusing mainly on daily neighborhood walks and garden, Jean's Farm, and Oxbow State Park exploration.

Ever since SES came to SE Salmon Street, third-graders have been making monthly treks to Laurelhurst Park where they study seasonal changes and observe wildlife habits. In fact, it was their study of the duck population at Firwood Lake that prompted official water-sample testing and ultimately

the draining and dredging of the lake due to its toxic algae bloom. Throughout this process, students have created signage to discourage people from feeding the ducks, asked them to throw their trash in the nearby trash bins, and hosted Laurelhurst Park Awareness Day.

This year's group of third-graders started their Laurelhurst Park field study during the second week of school. They were told they had been awarded a contract by the City of Portland to help maintain the health of Firwood Lake, and they will be out there at least once each month on "official" business. One of their duties is to help create a bioswale near the lake, which will remove pollution and silt from surface runoff. The students' work will even save the city money, because this item could be removed from the city's budget.



SES students at Laurelhurst Park

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The Sunnyside Neighborhood News is published monthly by the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association.

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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

Laurelhurst Neighborhood

Buckman Neighborhood

Richmond Neighborhood

Mt. Tabor Neighborhood

SE 28th Ave, SE 34th Ave, SE 39th Ave, Stark Street, Belmont, Hawthorne Boulevard, SE Salmon

SNA Meetings @ SEUL

Delivery help needed here