

SUNNYSIDE

Neighborhood News

February 2011

Fuel and Food in the Near Future

By Reuben Deumling, SNA President

We've grown accustomed to commodities such as food and fuel being cheap and readily available, but neither have, by and large, been grown or produced in Sunnyside. Transition Sunnyside is an effort we've introduced before in these pages. The premise behind the Transition Movement is that in light of anticipated effects of climate change and Peak Oil, we would do well to build resilience at the local level by exploring how we could grow more of our own food, rely on each other more in emergencies, and rely more on human power when it comes to transport, home heating, water and energy, etc. This may seem ambitious or even absurd to some, but in recent months there have been signs that maybe these changes are not so far off.

Last November, the International Energy Agency (IEA) noted in its annual World Energy Outlook that peak oil for conventional sources actually occurred back in 2006. The reason this peak—the maximum amount of oil that will ever be extracted in one year—is important is that worldwide demand for oil is expected to continue to rise. When supply and demand diverge, with no ready substitutes, then price and/or availability will become more volatile.

In Multnomah County, however, demand for gasoline has been pretty flat for several decades. Alternatives to traveling by car are plentiful and well used around here. Although we still have a long way to go, we may be better positioned to decrease our

reliance on gasoline more easily or more quickly than other communities.

Switching to food, Foreign Policy recently published an article by Lester Brown elaborating on what he terms "The Great Food Crisis of 2011."

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UPCOMING EVENTS | FEBRUARY

- 1st - SES Kindergarten Round Up
- 4th - First Friday Community Art Making
- 8th - SES Middle School Round Up
- 10th - Sunnyside Employment Self Help Group Potluck, noon
- 11th&25th - Writers Workshop
- 26th - Winter Carnival

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

Family Fun at the Sunnyside Winter Carnival

By Karen Hery, Sunnyside Swap Shop Co-op Facilitator/Coordinator

Join Do Jump, Children's Club, Sunnyside Swap Shop Co-op, Sunnyside Methodist Church, and Portland Church of Christ in a winter wonderland of carnival fun. From 3 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, February 26, the gym inside Sunnyside Centenary United Methodist Church at SE 35th and Yamhill will be hopping with carnival games, juggling area, bouncy house, climbing wall, and trapeze performances by Do Jump's youth troop. Food and drink will be served in

The Roost all afternoon and evening. Game



and food tickets are 50 cents each. Money raised at the carnival helps fund building improvement projects. Buy your tickets the day of the event or have a family pack of 60 tickets (\$30 value) waiting at will call by mailing a \$25 check to Sunnyside Swap Shop Co-op, 3520 SE Yamhill Street, *cont'd on page two...*

MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings at Southeast Uplift unless noted

General Meeting
Thursday, February 10, 7 p.m.

Crime Prevention Committee
Thursday, February 10, 6:30 p.m.

Sustainability Committee
Monday, February 14, 6:00 p.m.

Land Use & Transportation Committee
Monday, February 14, 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/>



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Fuel and Food

Rapidly growing demand for food worldwide—and for ethanol and biodiesel made from crops—combined with supply shortages, falling water tables, and loss of topsoil, pushed prices to an all-time high in December. Although we've heard these dire predictions before, this time roughly twice as many people live on the planet. Brown urged governments to pay more attention to food security and climate stabilization, which motivated this article.

Luckily, here in Sunnyside more and more people are planting food in their back yards, front yards, parking strips, in empty lots, and even on rooftops. While the quantity of food grown within the city limits is unknown, the trend is very promising. We'd like to hear from you about your experiences, your efforts, how you would like to see Sunnyside be better prepared. Our Facebook and listserv pages are good places to continue the conversation, or you can bring your ideas to our meetings. For more information, consult Portland's 2009 Climate Action Plan or the 2006 Peak Oil Task Force Report, both available online.

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Family Fun

Portland, OR 97214. Include an e-mail or phone number for will call confirmation.

Prizes at this event will be "recirculated" toys collected from Swap Shop members, Do Jump, and church families. If you have like-new stuffed animals or fun small toys to donate, bring them in bags marked "carnival" and drop them off during the month of

February on the porch under the Sunnyside Swap Shop Co-op sign at the top of the stone steps on the Yamhill side of the building. To volunteer at the carnival or for more information, contact Karen Hery, Sunnyside Swap Shop Co-op facilitator/coordinator, at sunnysideswapshop@gmail.com or 503-407-2667.

What is a 99er?

By George Slanina

The term "99er" is used to describe unemployed people who have exceeded 99 weeks of federal unemployment insurance. Those who have received 99 weeks of unemployment benefits live in states with the highest "official" unemployment rates, such as Oregon. By April, millions of Americans are expected to become 99ers and few jobs are expected to take up the slack.

The unemployment insurance system was not designed for a depression—at this point, it seems that only a government-sponsored jobs program can put millions of Americans back to work.

A rally/march will take place at Pioneer Square on Saturday, March 19, the eighth anniversary of the beginning of the Iraq War. The theme is "How is the war economy working for you?" Also, the Portland Unemployed Coalition is planning a "We Need Jobs" event in April.

The Sunnyside Employment Self-Help Group will have its next potluck at noon on Thursday, February 10, at Southeast Uplift, 3534 SE Main. Remember, a jobless recovery is like a foodless meal.

SES Principal Retiring, Kindergarten & Middle School Round Ups

By Gina Binole, SNA Board Member

Sarah Taylor, the driving force behind the creation of the Environmental Middle School (EMS) in 1994 and then the K-8 Sunnyside Environmental School (SES) in 2003, will retire as principal of SES at the end of the 2010-2011 school year.

Taylor, also a midwife and former preschool and ESL instructor, shepherded a novel concept rooted in environmental awareness and social justice into a highly-acclaimed, internationally recognized Portland public school, first educating slightly fewer than 200 EMS students and then eventually more than 550 SES students. As principal, Taylor has worked with her staff to develop curriculum that focuses on place-based education, including service learning, horticulture, cultural geography, and outdoor education.

The selection process for a new principal will be guided by officials from Portland Public Schools and allows for community input. Contact John Blank, director of administrative hiring at PPS, at jblank@pps.k12.or.us to share your thoughts. After gathering input, deputy superintendents will determine if an in-house candidate already exists, or if the hiring process will be extended and a hiring committee formed to screen potential candidates.

The school, of course, carries on while this leadership recruitment process is underway. A kindergarten round up, open to all interested families, is slated for February 1 at 6 p.m., with a make-up date of March 15 at 9 a.m. A middle

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PLAY PIANO!

Piano Lessons
by Amie Rose



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school round up for fifth graders is slated for February 8 at 6 p.m. All round up sessions will take place in the SES auditorium at SE 34th and Salmon.

Lottery slots likely will be open only for transfer siblings in kindergarten and sixth grade. Neighborhood families should bring two proofs of address, their child's birth certificate or a copy, and proof of immunization to complete a registration. For more information, contact the school at 503-916-6226.

Upcoming Events at the Secret Hideout Studio

By Edward Morris and Serena Appel

Secret Hideout Studio hosts a First Friday Community Art Making and Potluck Night from 6 to 9 p.m. on the first Friday of the month. Come view a new artist's work each month, connect with people in your community, or work on a creative project of your own! Bring a dish to share. We also offer a project-by-donation. For February, make your own valentines from recycled materials and learn new card "tricks" such as pop-ups or insert windows.

A Writers Workshop takes place at the studio every second and fourth Friday from 5 to 7 p.m. The workshops are hosted by professionally published local author, Edward Morris. Donations are welcome.

Secret Hideout Studio is a working artist's studio and creative space located at 1315 SE 37th, two blocks north of SE Hawthorne. We are open most First Fridays, for special events, and by appointment. For more information, visit secrethideoutstudio.wordpress.com or call 503-839-6224.

Kill A Watt Meters Now Available from the Library

By Reuben Deumling, SNA President



The Sunnyside Neighborhood Association pioneered the loan of Kill A Watt monitors several years ago in Sunnyside, and now Multnomah County is following suit.

The Multnomah County Library has teamed up with Energy Trust of Oregon to provide resources that increase energy awareness and savings. On your next visit to the library, check out a Kill A Watt monitor.

Kill A Watt monitors measure how much electricity appliances and devices such as refrigerators, microwave ovens, computers, televisions, phone chargers, game consoles, and cable boxes are consuming when plugged in. The monitors can also be used to measure "phantom" energy loads—the amount of energy an electronic device draws even when in standby mode. In the average home, 75 percent of the electricity used to power home electronics and appliances is consumed while the products are turned off (source: Energy Star).

The Kill A Watt monitors come with helpful tips and information about next steps for saving energy and money based on what you learn.

How Peer Support Got this Senior Citizen on a Bike

By Jeanne Longley, SNA Sustainability Committee/Transition Sunnyside



During the several years that I have belonged to the Sunnyside Sustainability Committee, I have felt like somewhat of a fraud. While most of the members would ride their bikes or walk to the meetings, I would jump in my trusty Honda hybrid and drive. After all, it's a hybrid, right? My fellow members talked about the benefits to the climate of going by bike and graciously overlooked my car parked outside. Finally, one member (Jane) asked if I wanted to borrow her second bike. I did, and was immediately intimidated by traffic and gave it back. Then she asked if it would help if we biked together so she could give me some tips. I agreed and then lost my nerve. Jane replied that she totally understood. She admitted that she had been intimidated at first too, and she wished the city had more streets entirely dedicated to bicycles for people (I recently learned that SE Lincoln is close to this ideal with its "bike boulevard"). Two days after this conversation, I called to say I was ready to go on the ride. We took streets recommended by the TriMet bicycle trip planner. At the intersections, I walked my bike. When I felt even the least bit anxious, Jane encouraged me to pull over, stop, and get my bearings. There is no shame in walking your bike on the sidewalk, I found. And best of all, I realized I was actually having fun! The next day, I got myself a beautiful new bike. The next committee meeting to which I rode the bike was a rainy 6-mile round trip. I had a great time.

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Green Building Questions Answered Here!

By Valerie Garrett

Metro, the City of Portland, and Multnomah, Washington, and Clackamas counties want to ensure that you know about their joint community resource, the regional Green Building Hotline. The hotline provides practical and impartial information about green home strategies, resources, and incentives for new and existing commercial and residential projects in the region. We'll answer your questions about reducing your carbon footprint, renewable energy, indoor air quality, salvage,

training workshops, and more. The hotline is a bridge to information, programs, and local resources available to help you be as green as you would like to be.

Inquiries from homeowners, renters, real estate professionals, nonprofits, contractors, students, developers, business owners, and design professionals in the tri-county area are welcome. It is the hotline's intent to inspire (not overwhelm!) callers to incorporate as many sustainable choices, either material or behavioral, into their projects as possible. The hotline can also help callers overcome barriers and obstacles they have around green building.

A great place to start is right where you are. Know which resources are available and take it one day at a time. How can you get money back on your stormwater/sewer bill? What actions can you take to save on energy at

home? Where can you tour a green home? When is the next class on rain gardens? What is the WaterSense label? How can I retrofit my house to age-in-place? Can I get a rebate for planting a tree? Call us!

The FREE regional Green Building Hotline can help! Call 503-823-5431, visit www.buildgreen411.com, or join us on Facebook: Green Development Resource Center.

SNA would like to thank

Sensational
Homemade Thai Cuisine
for their generous donation to our recent
General meeting

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.

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Sunnyside Neighborhood Map

Delivery help needed here

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