

# SUNNYSIDE

## Neighborhood News

### December 2012

#### Sunnyside News

Reuben Deumling, SNA President

Another Leaf Day is upon us— Saturday, December 8, from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information visit [www.portlandoregon.gov/leafday](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/leafday) or call 503-865-LEAF. Although with the weather we're having as I write this, there may not be any leaves left by then.

The much-anticipated forum on apartment buildings without

off-street car parking was hosted by Portland's Planning and Sustainability Commission on November 13. A variety of individuals and groups presented testimony, including the Apartment Parking Task Force comprising neighborhood association representatives from areas in which these buildings are planned and where, in some cases, construction

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#### Peacock Lane Holiday Lights

By Becky Patterson

The tradition continues! Residents of Peacock Lane are gearing up for our annual festivities. Since the 1920s, Peacock Lane has played host to thousands, delighting passersby with our holiday lights display, and this year we are continuing our "newer" tradition of pedestrian only nights. On December 15 and 16, absolutely no vehicle traffic will be allowed on Peacock Lane. We have made a concerted effort to encourage everyone to use TriMet to get to Peacock Lane in hopes of lessening the impact on our neighbors. Our heartfelt thanks to all of our Sunnyside and Laurelhurst neighbors—we know that we create some extra headaches for two weeks of the year and we really appreciate your understanding. Thanks also to SNA for your partnership and support.

#### Giving Away Houses at the SNA Holiday Party

By Karen Hery, SNA Vice President

Neighborhood association meetings can be a bit dry most of the year but promise to be livelier than usual in December when we all gather to celebrate the season and honor neighbors who have gone out of their way to make Sunnyside safer, friendlier, and an all around great place to live. Neighborhood meetings are held the second Thursday of each month from 7 to 8 p.m. on the top floor of the Southeast Uplift building at 3534 SE Main Street. December's gathering is a potluck feast (as good as the dishes we all bring) from 7 to 9 p.m.

This year we will be giving the "Keep on Pedaling" award to one of our neighbors who works steadily on many projects; the "Dedication to the Cause" award to a neighbor who sees important needs and is willing to take action; the "Neighborhood Spirit" award to the force behind a very

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#### UPCOMING EVENTS | DECEMBER

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Hawthorne Holiday Stroll
- 8<sup>th</sup> - Sunnyside Leaf Day
- 8<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>- Hanukkah
- 15<sup>th</sup> - Car Free Peacock Lane
- 16<sup>th</sup> - Car Free Peacock Lane
- 17<sup>th</sup> - Deadline for Friends of Trees Planting Signup
- 25<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Day

#### JANUARY 2013

- 1<sup>st</sup> - New Year's Day
- 19<sup>th</sup> - Friends of Trees Planting
- 21<sup>st</sup> - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

#### MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings at Southeast Uplift unless noted

General Meeting and Potluck  
Thursday, December 13, 7 p.m.

Crime Prevention Committee  
Thursday, December 13, 6:45 p.m.

Land Use & Transportation Committee  
Monday, December 10, 7:30 p.m.

Emergency Preparedness Committee  
@ Sound Grounds Coffee House  
No Meeting in December 2012

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

SUNNYSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

[www.SunnysideNeighborhood.com](http://www.SunnysideNeighborhood.com)



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



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### Sunnyside News

has started. Testimony was reported to have been evenly split for and against allowing developers to proceed, and it seemed as if the opponents of the car-parking-free zoning did not convince the Planning and Sustainability Commission of the need to change the code. But counsel still gets to weigh in.

In other news, the results from the Sunnyside 2012 tree inventory are in: we have almost 3,000 street trees in our neighborhood. For details see Jeff Cole's article below. Finally, on December 13, we invite you to attend SNA's annual holiday potluck. It is always a fun time with food that gets better every year. We hope to see many of you there. For details see Karen Hery's article on page one.

### Did You Know?

Sunnyside has a population density roughly equal to the city of Chicago? (~4,500/km<sup>2</sup>)

### Sunnyside's Urban Forest has Room to Grow

By Jeff Cole, Volunteer SNA Coordinator for Friends of Trees

We've got 2,995 street trees in Sunnyside and every day they make us a little happier and our streets a bit friendlier. That's just under half a street tree per resident. We officially have room for another 759 street trees, and even more if we count all the streets with skinny planting strips.

Such is the Sunnyside "Tree of Knowledge" generated by the now published Street Tree Inventory report. Over the summer, volunteers recorded the vital stats of every Sunnyside street tree. Now we know that our most common street tree is the cherry (almost 11 percent), that 35 percent of our stock is in either fair or poor condition (or dead), and that 97 percent are deciduous.

Sunnyside Tree Team members reviewed the results and began

to plan a path forward at the 2012 Portland Parks and Recreation Tree Summit held on November 10. The inventory generated a wealth of information on Sunnyside's streetside canopy in terms of species, age, health, and opportunities. Download the report at <http://portlandonline.com/parks/treeinventory>, or browse the trees on Google Maps at <http://bit.ly/T1yWyn>.

The 2013 Sunnyside Friends of Trees planting is slated for Saturday, January 19. This is one of the best ways to snag yourself a new street or yard tree and add to our community canopy. The sign-up deadline is December 17. Visit [friendsoftrees.org](http://friendsoftrees.org) to enroll or for more information.

If you have a narrow curbside planting strip (less than 30 inches wide) you may still be able to plant a tree by cutting out part of the sidewalk. For more information, write to Jeff at [sunnyside@plantitportland.org](mailto:sunnyside@plantitportland.org), or call Erica Timm at Friends of Trees.



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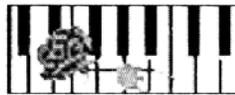
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### PLAY PIANO!

Piano Lessons  
by Amie Rose



Belmont & SE 32nd Ave.  
503-238-6361

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### SNA Holiday Party

neighborly business; and the "Quiet Force in the Neighborhood" award to a great behind the scenes supporter of neighborhood events. And then there are the houses we will be giving away, so come on by, say hello, and see if we have any houses left when you arrive. Plenty to share, so we hope to have multiple houses for every party guest.

Southeast Uplift has plates, cups, and silverware for us to use and wash up afterward, but bringing your own is also always appreciated. We won't make anyone sing carols or play silly games, although, if you must bring a white elephant gift, we can give that away with the houses.

Hope to see you at Southeast Uplift from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, December 13!

### Hawthorne Hostel's Community Bicycle Fix-it Station Now Open

By Michele Machado, Operations & Environmental Programs Manager, Hawthorne Hostel

A self-serve station that provides a convenient work stand, common bicycle tools, and an air pump, is now open to the public at Hawthorne Hostel, 3031 SE Hawthorne Boulevard, on Wednesdays from 3 to 6 p.m. and on Saturdays from 2 to 5 p.m. If you're a member of the community and would like to use the hostel's fix-it station during public hours, check in at the hostel's front desk when you arrive. Hostel staff will need to hold your valid government-issued photo ID while you use the fix-it station. You'll have up to 30 minutes per visit to use the station. Staff members at the hostel are not bicycle mechanics, so no onsite help can be provided. However, if you have a smart phone, there is a QR code on the station. Scan the code and you'll get bicycle repair instructions!

Like us on Facebook (Portland Hawthorne Hostel). Share your photos and your experience in using the fix-it station or participating in an event such as our infamous Sunday brunch. Looking to get involved at the hostel? We are always looking for new volunteers! Contact Happy Apostal at 503-236-3380, or email [volunteer.hawthorne@hiosa.org](mailto:volunteer.hawthorne@hiosa.org).

### Emergency Preparedness Tip of the Month

By SNA Emergency Preparedness Committee

This month's tip is about fire. This season is a good time to be extra fire-aware as many of us get festive with holiday décor. Many home fires start because of unattended candles. Christmas trees, especially dry ones, can be easily ignited. If you have a tree, be sure it's well away from any sources of heat or flame, such as space heaters, candles, or woodstoves.

Know your alternative escape routes for fire or other emergency. How will you get out if your door is blocked? Check closed doors for heat before opening them and touch the doorknob carefully. If the door or the knob is hot, don't open the door. In a smoky room, the cleanest air will be near the floor. Stay low and crawl. Be sure your kids know what to do. Designate a family meeting place outdoors, so that no one will go into a burning house to look for a family member who's already outside.

The next SNA Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting will be on Monday, January 14, at 9 a.m. at Sound Grounds Coffee House, SE 37th and Belmont. Join us! It's a kid-friendly place.

SNA would like to thank



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for their generous donation to our recent  
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## Hedging our Bets: Apartment Buildings & Parking

By Reuben Deumling

The prospect of large, new apartment buildings without any off-street car parking appearing in our neighborhoods provoke strong responses from people who view the issue from different angles. Those who are concerned these developments will lead to excess parking and traffic congestion have asked for a moratorium on these buildings. Others (and I include myself here) welcome the break with the auto-first infrastructures of the 20th century that these buildings represent. At the end of the day, neither perspective has done a very good job of identifying the crux of the matter, which, at least to me, is the challenge of matching the existing car-free population of renters in our city (24 percent according to the 2010 Census data) with these or other apartments that may have bike parking or close proximity to major transit routes but lack off-street car parking.

What could we do to facilitate this? How far could we go down this road in an attempt to get all sides talking to find solutions, at least to the (anticipated) struggle over too little parking for too many cars?

To me there are (at least) two ways of looking at this. The first focuses on the medium to long term, when current trends away from the heavy car dependency of the late 20th century accelerates, and the (drivers fighting over parking on the street) problem takes care of itself. Fuel price trends are just one of the likely contributors to this outcome. The observed drop in car ownership, driver's licenses, and vehicle miles traveled by those under 35 is another. The second focuses on the short term. It is undeniable that some of the residents of these new buildings will own cars and park them on nearby streets. Parking permit systems are one option for regulating the use of public streets for storage of private automobiles. There is no mystery about how this works, or that it works. But objections to the idea must be overcome.

Given what we know about the present circumstances and likely trends, my main concern is what happens if we guess wrong. Comparing the risks of guessing wrong should help us make better decisions: (a) buildings without off-street car parking are built as planned but car ownership rates do not continue to fall vs.

(b) a moratorium goes through but car ownership rates continue to fall. Nothing in (a) can't be solved with a parking permit program, whereas with (b) we get an expensive build-out of car parking that sits unused and unconvertible to any other use, while the apartments are priced out of reach

for many because of the extra cost of providing all that parking.

We haven't yet taken a serious look at how to incentivize or facilitate heavier reliance on, for instance, Zipcar, Car2Go, or Getaround; or who could (or perhaps should) subsidize transit passes. And that goes for those of us who already live in this neighborhood too.

## December Garden Seed Party Sign-up

By Jon Noel, SNA Board Member

Like many of you, November brought a glut of seed and garden catalogs to drool over or throw away. Personally, I like to read them cover to cover to see what is new and exciting being offered to home gardeners for the coming growing season. However, we have a limited budget to spend on new seed packets that sometimes have far more seeds than we need. Those who purchase from catalogs or online may also receive bonuses of reduced shipping or discounts on bigger seed orders. Therefore, I am inviting you to sign up at SNA's December holiday party on Thursday, December 13, to purchase seeds jointly. After the seeds have arrived, we'll get together to divide them and share gardening tips on starting them. We could also organize a seedling plant swap at a later date to deal with excess seedlings.



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

## Sunnyside Neighborhood Map

