

SUNNYSIDE

Neighborhood News

November 2019

Homelessness in our city and neighborhood: Special Issue

*By Reuben Deumling,
Vice President SNA*

We know folks read this newsletter, because we announced a panel discussion to be held on October 10th on the causes and consequences of homelessness, and you filled the auditorium at the Sunnyside Environmental School. I would like to extend a big thank you to Matt Lembo and Shannon Cogan for organizing the event, inviting the panelists and the media, and to SES for hosting us. For those of you who weren't there, we'd like to take this opportunity to introduce you to some of the panelists who sent us information pertinent to what they said, or background information that they wanted to share.

Homelessness is more visible here in Sunnyside now than it was five years ago, but visible or not, the suffering which accompanies homelessness is something we all have to grapple with. Our challenge, as neighbors, as citizens, and as people is to try and rise to the occasion. Our institutions, many of which were represented on our panel, are trying to help, but the feeling I came away with is that the problem is bigger than they can handle. It is bigger than Sunnyside park, bigger than the Sunnyside neighborhood, bigger than Portland, or even Oregon. As Representative Rob Nosse, who was in the audience, suggested, more money and different priorities would help, surely; but in the meantime there are a number of things we can do, as well

as things we might not want to do. Not calling the police and fire departments' emergency numbers for situations that are unlikely to be life threatening but burden these systems, was another takeaway.

As several of our panelists pointed out, consider buying a copy of Street Roots. Much of what you can read in this issue of our newsletter is discussed at greater length there. This now-weekly paper just celebrated its twentieth year, and it keeps getting better. I guarantee you will learn something. As Russell and others point out below, stay connected, keep informed, and let's see if we can't apply ourselves to some of the smaller, local, more manageable dimensions of this crisis.

Looking at Rental Practices

by Edith Casterline, Rental Providers for Positive Change

I was grateful to the Sunnyside Board for the recent forum about the housing crisis in Portland. I learned from each of the other panelists, and look forward to continuing the conversation with my Sunnyside neighbors. Rental Providers for Positive Change has a growing list of resources on our website, and over the coming months we'll be developing a list of suggested rental practices that go beyond basic legal requirements in striving towards being more pro-tenant, pro-environment, and pro-community. We'll be gathering input from both rental providers and renters, and welcome you to be part, whether it's a simple email suggestion you send me, chatting over tea, or in a group. I certainly continue to

make mistakes as a rental provider, but am committed to learning; let's share our ideas for how to do better.

RPforPC also speaks out for public policies that increase housing equity and improve the safety net. You can connect with us at www.rpforpc.org.

What you need to know about your neighbor who is houseless and using drugs or alcohol

By Ellen Greaney, Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Specialist

Words Matter - Shift your language to respect another person's experience.

Instead of addict/addiction = use Person with a Substance Use Disorder (Methamphetamine Use Disorder, Opioid Use Disorder etc.)

Instead of clean/dirty = use positive or negative test results for a substance/person who uses ____ drug, person who is no longer using ____ drug, person in

NOVEMBER MEETINGS

Safety & Livability Committee

Tuesday Nov 5, 6:30pm - 7:30pm
@SE Uplift

SNA Board Meeting

Thursday, Nov 14, 7-8pm
@ SE Uplift

SUNNYSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

SunnysidePortland.org
board@sunnysideportland.org



recovery

Instead of relapse = use recurrence of use/return to use

Instead of rehab = use Outpatient, Inpatient, Detoxification treatment or supported recovery

Oregon is ranked at the bottom five of US states for access to drug and alcohol treatment. It is ranked at the top five for rate of alcohol and drug use. Support the implementation of Senate Bill - SB 1041 which attempts to address this. Many people want help, yet there are so many barriers to that help:

About syringes. It is illegal to throw syringes in the garbage. Syringes need proper disposal. This webpage has lots of information on syringe disposal, including how to request a drop box in a certain location: <https://multco.us/syringe-disposal>

People need a safe place to use drugs in order to survive their use disorder. Supporting initiatives and joining the coalition for safe consumption space in Portland is a vital way to ensure that this type of place can exist and save countless lives and/or bridge access to treatment if it is wanted. <https://www.saferspacespdx.com/>

Share a meal and a story with a neighbor at the Sisters of the Road cafe and donate more than the recommended \$1.25 if you are able. Sisters of the Road has been open and providing both meals and a place for people to share space and community with each other for 40 years. <https://sistersoftheroad.org/>

Buy a Street Roots Newspaper whenever you can. It costs \$1 and is available in many places from local vendors. This work supports folks who are working to improve their lives. The articles and news it provides is vitally important. You are supporting the voices and perspective of folks experiencing homelessness. Issues include candidate endorsements and perspectives on legislation which impact folks who are homeless and using drugs/alcohol. <https://streetroots.org/>

Get trained on the opioid overdose reversal medication Naloxone/Narcan at The Alano Club (909 NW 24th Avenue) on the third Friday on the month. You will get a free Naloxone kit and the training is free. If you are privileged enough

to afford \$150, you can buy the nasal version of Narcan at any pharmacy, without a prescription. It is much easier to administer. People can only get help if they are alive. There are events on Facebook under "How to Save a Life".

A person doesn't need a house to be your neighbor. Everyone is our neighbor. This is about all of us, caring for all of us in all the ways we can.

How to respond if you notice a fire outdoors

*By Tremaine Clayton,
CHAT - PSR Coordinator,
Portland Fire & Rescue*

One of the most common calls for service our crews respond to involving the houseless community are reports of "illegal" fires. Fire crews report back that most of these fires are found to be warming or cooking in nature and pose threats to a structure or wildland fire danger. Often, these calls are made by people driving past that don't stop, who are then unable to provide pertinent information needed for dispatchers to send the appropriate response, (if a response is needed at all). If you think something is important enough to call 911, it should be important enough to safely stop and give accurate and detailed information.

The following excerpt is from the Bureau of Emergency Communications website. The full article can be accessed here: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/911/article/671766>

"Call 9-1-1 when it is an emergency which requires immediate response from the police, fire or ambulance. Examples include a crime in progress like a fight, a theft, a shooting; a fire in a commercial building, house or car; or a medical emergency like a heart attack, stroke or car crash with injuries. If you aren't sure whether the situation is an emergency, call 9-1-1 and the call taker will determine if you need emergency help."

If you see something that makes you feel uncomfortable, please take the time to pause and ask yourself, "Is there a real imminent threat to Life or Property?" If the answer is no, like a contained warming fire that's being attended to, then there is no need to call 911.

You can access Portland Fire & Rescue's Outdoor Burning & Burning Guidelines here: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/fire/article/740251>

Reflection on Homelessness Panel Discussion

*By Russell Rinaldi, SNA Board
Member, Safety & Livability
Committee Chair*

The Crisis and Conscience panel discussion last Thursday, October 10th, was an authentic attempt at opening a dialog with everyone on the incredibly difficult issues we face in homelessness and homelessness. The meeting went smoothly, was well moderated, and some productive discussion was begun. We learned some things. We learned that the CAHOOTS program in Eugene, which improves emergency call response, is being mirrored here by Portland Fire & Rescue. We heard about the Street Medicine program that helps people living on the street get some forms of medical care. We also learned that Oregon ranks 49th in the U.S. for mental healthcare — a shocking statistic.

And as the discussion continued, the panel painted a gloomy picture. Mark Jolin described the houseless crisis as a worsening hurricane, and missing from the discourse was anything that could be mistaken for solutions, or sources that supported many of the statistics presented. I had really hoped to learn of new programs and sustainable responses for the disadvantaged in our community, specifically on housing for those sleeping on the streets. I want to be a good human and I don't see how normalizing camping and leaving people to weather the environment in tent cities scattered among Portland neighborhoods without sanitation or justice can be considered a compassionate response.

Amy Kleiner, Principal of Sunnyside Environmental School, explained that police presence frightens the children given the present day active-shooter scenario, and requested that neighbors call police only during off-school hours, unless it is an emergency.

Mike Krantz, Commander for Portland Police Central Precinct, told us the police aren't here to handle social

issues, as if we thought they ever were. This was confusing to me, knowing and walking with neighbors who are using One Point of Contact, PDX reporter (<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/toolkit/70039>), and only calling police when menacing behavior, assault, theft, or burglary have endangered the safety of our space. Themes of accountability and crime prevention went completely unaddressed.

We were told that we need a billion dollars for quality, affordable housing, and that no interim measures like tiny homes or camp zones with services, would do. Interim solutions are viewed as a waste of funds that would be better spent on permanent housing.

By the end of the event many homeowners and working class Southeast taxpayers were seething, and there were few occasions of general applause during the meeting.

In the aftermath, some expressed a feeling of being silenced, while others felt that the composition of the speakers made it seem more like propaganda. I can tell you as a member of this board, its exceedingly passionate, solution-focused members unanimously care deeply for the space we share and struggle to ensure these events are formed with the best intentions and in good faith. We need your continued input to fashion them in a way that helps our community holistically.

I'd like to echo and amplify this sentiment of one of our members: "Let none of us leave this conversation." Stay in the discussion. There's work to be done finding a middle path with sustainable solutions that work for us all. I'd like to see more panel discussions and I'd like to see all of us have a hand in planning them to keep them focused, productive and inclusive.

Here are some solutions that we might explore:

Some form of triage to offer help to those who want it, while holding those who are here simply to take advantage of the present situation accountable.

Oregon has \$250 million allocated for affordable housing. Since the spirit of raising those funds was to combat houselessness, can we not leverage them to house people?

San Francisco has implemented a vacancy tax on large, empty, multiunit investment properties to incentivise companies holding out for those who can afford higher rents to more fairly operate in their rental market.

All of this said, Rob Nosse will be attending the SNA board meeting on Thursday, December 12th. Please join us and bring your thoughts and ideas. Let us remove complexities and points-of-failure like anger and politics and get to work on solutions.

Join the Newsletter Delivery Team!

By Diana Deumling, Newsletter Delivery Coordinator

The Sunnyside newsletter is looking for a new Quad Leader. This person is in charge of counting out and distributing newsletter bundles for delivery volunteers in the NW quadrant of Sunnyside. Also, we're always in need of newsletter volunteers for those blocks that are currently without a delivery person. See the "Gap Map" on the back of the newsletter for blocks where we need volunteer help.

You'll be joining more than 60 of your neighbors who participate each month to deliver this neighborhood newsletter. It's a great way to meet your neighbors, get some exercise, and give a little back to the community. Most routes cover one or two blocks and take about 20 minutes to deliver. The newsletters will be delivered to your doorstep.

If you are interested in being a quad leader or starting a newsletter route, please contact Diana Deumling at dianadeumling@gmail.com. Thank you!

Hawthorne District Tree Lighting

By Nancy Chapin

Saturday, December 7th

Fernie Brae at SE 41st and Hawthorne

3 – 4:30 pm: Ornament making

4:30 pm: Cider and cocoa until we run out

5 pm: Tree lighting

5:00-7:00 pm: Music and staying open for holiday shopping

Refreshments provided by New Seasons.

Newspaper contest winners announcement

For more information, contact Nancy Chapin at Administrator@hawthornepdx.com

November Library Events:

Been working on a novel? A memoir? Multnomah County Library wants to read your e-book! If we love it, we'll add it to the library catalog and feature it online. For more details, see <https://multcolib.org/library-writers-project>.

At the Belmont Library, November's events include:

DIY Beeswax Wraps

Create beautiful and eco-conscious food wraps. These decorative alter-natives to plastic wrap can be used in your home or gifted as a thoughtful holiday present.

Saturday, November 2, 3-4 pm
(reservations open October 12)

Google Productivity

You can get things done using your Google account! You must have a Google or Gmail account before coming to class in order to participate. Bring your username and password to class; you will need to be able to log into your account.

Sunday, November 17, 2-4 pm
(reservations open October 27)

**Children, Teens & Adults
LEARN AIKIDO
The Art of Peace
at Two Rivers Aikikai**



**Your Community Dojo
Belmont & SE 30th Ave.**

www.2rivers.org

Open to All



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PLAY PIANO!

**Piano Lessons
by Amie Rose**



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



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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@sunnysideportland.org. Many wonderful volunteer Sunnyside residents distribute the Neighborhood News.

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ENROLLING IN
MEDICARE?**



I'm your local Medicare expert. Contact me to set up a personalized appointment.

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503-756-1398
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Providence Medicare Advantage Plans is an HMO, HMO-POS and HMO SNP with Medicare and Oregon Health Plan contracts. Enrollment in Providence Medicare Advantage Plans depends on contract renewal.
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Sunnyside Neighborhood Map

■ Delivery help needed here

