

SUNNYSIDE

Neighborhood News

December 2019

Residents Address Sunnyside Neighborhood Association on Homelessness

By Reuben Deumling, SNA Vice President

At the November general meeting we heard from a group of Sunnyside neighbors who have been attending the Livability Committee meetings and wished to address their concerns to the Board. We devoted an hour to this group's desire to engage the Board on a list of demands vis-à-vis the homeless people with whom we now share this neighborhood. This group felt that the panel discussion in October did not offer answers to the pressing problems they experience. We listened and discussed some of the demands, which were laid out in a letter passed out at the meeting, but the conversation kept drifting back to the demand that SE Uplift stop allowing camping in the parking strip in front of their building. The chief demand was for everyone to inform any homeless people camped in front of their property that they must move along after 72 hours. As I understood the thinking behind this idea, this approach would motivate those living on the streets to seek out services that will help them out of this situation.

The trouble with this approach—as I tried to point out in the meeting—is that those offering services to the homeless in our region are either at, or over, capacity. According to Kaia Sand, the Executive Director of Street Roots, whom I asked about this: “the TPI shelters (Laurelwood, River District, Walnut Park, etc) all have waiting lists, and individual people can't

even get on those lists (they have to be referred).” As we learned at the panel discussion in October, Oregon ranks 49th out of the 50 states in access to mental health services.

As much as we may wish there to be institutional capacity to fix this broken system, we are in fact in a much deeper hole than that. With different priorities, adequate funding, more services, less inequality, and fewer of the drivers that attract so many new people to our city, many of the dimensions of this problem could be tackled more aggressively, and eventually solved, but in the meantime—today, tomorrow, and next week—I am afraid it is up to us as neighbors, as people—as folks who if our luck ran out could ourselves be homeless in a week or a month—to muddle through, support or join those who are helping in small ways, find or invent our own local solutions. While asking every homeless person camped in our midst to move along may feel promising to some, based on what I have learned, this does not seem likely to lead people off the streets and into housing any more than has the very expensive sweeps program.

SES Annual Tree Recycling Fundraiser Returns

By Skoke, SES Volunteer

Hello neighbors! It's that time of year when our K-8 Sunnyside Environmental School (SES) organizes a Holiday / Christmas Tree Recycling Event. All donations benefit the SES “GO FUND”, utilized throughout the school year to

supplement out-of-pocket costs of school field trips for many of our students and families. Our middle-schoolers (grades 6 - 8) earn community service credits by working at the event, neighbors are welcomed on our school grounds (complimentary coffee, hot cocoa, bonfire) and we provide a valuable and convenient service — offering drop-off and pickup options for tree recycling.

In alignment with the school's deep commitment to the study of ecosystems and environmental impacts, all trees are quickly converted into mulch chips, for use in the SES school garden as well as PDX community gardens and local farms.

Drop off service:

Sat, Jan 4 & Sun, Jan 5, 10 am - 4 pm

Sunnyside Environmental School: 3421 SE Salmon St, Portland OR 97214. Drop-off in the asphalt area at SE Taylor & 35th, just behind the school building. Follow signs and instructions from our students. The \$5 requested donation can be made by cash, check or Venmo.

Pick-up service:

Continued on Page 2

DECEMBER MEETINGS

Safety & Livability Committee

Tuesday Dec 3, 6:30pm - 7:30pm
@ SE Uplift

SNA Meeting, Holiday Potluck and “Stump the Legislator” with Rob Nosse

Thursday, Dec 12, 7-9pm
@ SE Uplift

SUNNYSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

SunnysidePortland.org
board@sunnysideportland.org



Reserve in advance for eastside PDX residents who live within the boundaries of NE/SE 20th to 60th Aves, and between NE Glisan and SE Powell. The \$10 requested donation can be made via PayPal or credit card. Reservations must be made by 12/28/19 by completing the online submission form here:

<https://www.sesptsa.org/general-interest/tree-recycling-2020/>

Due to logistics constraints, we are not able to schedule specific time windows for pickup. We request that trees be placed curbside, on front porch, or in a designated area no later than 10:00am on Sat, Jan 4. Trees will be taken away sometime on either the 4th or 5th.

Questions? Please email:
sunnysidetreerecycling@gmail.com

The US Census comes to Sunnyside

By Scott Moshier

Every ten years, as mandated by the United States Constitution, our nation collects an accurate accounting of the number of people residing within any given area of the country through the work of the Decennial Census.

With this accounting, local, county, state, and federal organizations and agencies gain access to a statistical representation of their communities, which informs the apportionment of over \$675 billion annually in federal funds, district lines for political representation, and the number of Congresspeople each state receives. Beyond federal funding for schools, roads, hospitals (and much more), businesses, nonprofits, and government agencies use the statistical population data of the Census to plan their services. Anyone seeking to understand the populations they serve within a geographic area can make use of the data the Census generates every ten years.

In order to complete the work of the Decennial, the Census Bureau is hiring hundreds of workers locally to both conduct field work and support those field workers from the office. We're hiring now in Multnomah County, paying \$18 - \$20/hour for field positions and \$14.50 - \$18.50/hour for office positions.

Apply online at 2020census.gov/jobs. For questions, see 2020census.gov/jobs/faqs or call the office at 855-JOB-2020.

These are great paying jobs with flexible hours, paying weekly, and with paid training. Whether you're looking to grab some extra cash, or want to be a part of history, if you're 18 or older (or will be by March 2020), a US citizen, and have an email address, the Census Bureau invites you to join us in this important work that we've conducted since 1790. It's an experience you'll never forget!

Holiday Party/Potluck at December General Meeting

By Reuben Deumling, SNA Vice President

Please join us for an evening of food and conversation at 7 pm on December 12th in the Fireside Room at SE Uplift (3534 SE Main St.). In addition to the fine repast we expect (and you all will bring), Representative Rob Nosse will join us to give an update on legislative priorities for the upcoming year. We hope many of you can make it. Please bring forks. We have plates, cups and spoons but the population of forks at SE Uplift have a habit of wandering off. Thank you.

Neighborhood Watch Renamed

By Dale Peppel

Neighborhood Watch Training has ended. Neighbors Together training has begun.

What is "Neighbors Together"? According to their website "Neighbors Together goes beyond the traditional 'watch' approach still connecting neighbors but with an emphasis on community building."

The Neighbors Together organizers will handle the training the same as they did for the Neighborhood Watch, at a private home for as few as five neighbors. However they will also train larger groups. If people from several blocks attend a given training, there should be an appointee who will coordinate those additional blocks, and keep them updated. Attendees' contact information

will be the responsibility of the block organizer or appointed neighbor.

One improvement with the new program is that businesses, parks, apartments, and multi-use buildings can now be in the same block group as homeowners and attend the same training meeting. You just need to have a large enough space. Training can be on any day of the week or on the weekend if the conveners are given advanced notice, but the best days are Tuesday thru Thursday. Meetings can start any time between 2 and 7 pm and will last for 60 to 90 minutes.

Neighbors Together will do presentations about the new program at Neighborhood Association meetings to make the associations aware of this program. Their website (<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/civic/62587>) has information about the program, as well as an informational brochure and workshop workbook.

Belmont Library Adult programs for December

By Jenney Whittier, Library Assistant, Belmont Library

Tax-Efficient Retirement

Tuesday, December 3, 6-7:30 pm

Middle-income retirees can easily be taxed on 85% of their Social Security income and may face federal tax rates as high as 55% on each additional withdrawal from a retirement account. This program will show you why taxes are different in retirement and how to avoid key pitfalls in how you harvest income from various accounts. First come, first served.

2019 Peacock Lane Holiday Lights Displays

By Dara Boush, Peacock Lane Historic District Secretary

The holiday season is approaching, and residents of Southeast Portland's Historic Peacock Lane are once again planning their legendary light displays. One of Portland's most beloved holiday traditions, Peacock Lane residents have been decking out their homes for

decades.

As always, Peacock Lane does not charge an admission fee to view the lights, and asks that groups and individuals help to keep the event commercial-free by not handing out flyers or soliciting visitors for sales or donations.

2019 Schedule:

Lights on December 15 – 31 from 6 pm to 11 pm

PEDESTRIANS ONLY NIGHTS are December 15, 16, and 17 (Sunday, Monday and Tuesday)

In the event of additional, unplanned closures due to large crowds, updates will be posted to Twitter, Facebook, and peacocklane.org pages. Those who must see the lights from a car are encouraged to check online before visiting.

Free Cocoa and Cider

The Cocoa Booth is open December 15 – 24 from 6 pm until sold out (generally around 8 pm). Cocoa and cider are provided free of charge, but donations of cash and canned goods are accepted at the cocoa booth when open. This year a portion of the cocoa booth proceeds will be donated locally to Morrison Child and Family Services – SAGE Youth Residential program (<https://morrisonkids.org/programs/residential/sage-youth-residential-program/>)

Transportation and Parking

Traffic can become quite heavy in the area during the lights season. Visitors to Peacock Lane are encouraged to view the lights by foot, if possible, for the best experience. Utilize free street parking several blocks away or public transportation (TriMet buses 15, 75, and 20 have stops within a few blocks; <http://trimet.org/go/cgi-bin/plantrip.cgi>). Please be respectful of our neighbors when parking in the area. Note: Do Not park in the Walgreens lot; they maintain their lot for their customers only.

Community Partners

Peacock Lane would like to thank:

- Volunteers of America for mixing and delivering both cocoa and cider daily,
- Sunnyside Neighborhood Association, and

- SE Uplift for ongoing logistical support every year

Connect With Peacock Lane

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/peacockln>

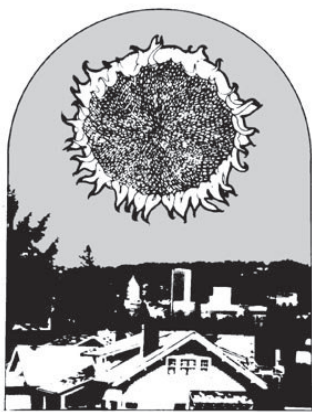
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/PDXPeacockLn>

Web site: <http://www.peacocklane.org>

Help Us Fill This Empty Space by Advertising in the Sunnyside Newsletter!

By Reuben Deumling, SNA Vice President

Do you own a business in SE Portland? Do (some of) your customers live in the Sunnyside Neighborhood? We would like to run your ad in the newsletter you are holding in your hands. Every month this newsletter is hand-delivered to approximately 3,000 households in Sunnyside. By the time you read this, several of your friendly Board members will have fanned out into the neighborhood offering subscriptions. In case you missed their invitation, the salient parameters for a standard ad is 1/12 page for \$50/month or \$550 for one year. Other sizes and rates are also available. Email newsletter@sunnysideportland.org to get started!



SUNNYSIDE
PROUD PAST - BRIGHT FUTURE

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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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Sunnyside Neighborhood Map

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