

# SUNNYSIDE

## *Neighborhood News*

### February 2021

SUNNYSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

[SunnysidePortland.org](https://SunnysidePortland.org)

[board@sunnysideportland.org](mailto:board@sunnysideportland.org)

#### **January SNA Notes and February Plans**

*By Dave Boush, SNA President*

The January SNA General Meeting was divided nearly equally between discussions about homeless camping and emergency preparedness. As many neighbors know, the November 2020 sweep of camps in Laurelhurst Park resulted in many campers moving to the perimeter of Sunnyside Environmental School. In early January, the 34th Ave side of the camp was posted and swept to permit access to the school park, however 30-40 campers remained along Yamhill and 35th Ave. Neighbors, including several SNA Board members, have been working for several weeks to keep the park tidy and provide shower services at the church while actively trying to relocate campers. Two resolutions were passed by the SNA to further those goals.

The first resolution endorsed a letter from Rep. Rob Nosse to Portland Commissioner Dan Ryan and Multnomah County Chair Deb Kafoury recommending emergency sanctioned sites for camping (please see the letter on our website <https://sunnysideportland.org>). The SNA endorsement encourages endorsement by Southeast Uplift, our parent organization.

The second resolution was to add a page on the SNA website for volunteer sign-ups and donations to further campsite clean-up efforts. Despite some misgivings, the opinions voiced in the meeting were remarkably unified in support of clean-up and for providing appropriate places for campers. No one said that parks and schools are acceptable campsites. However, chasing people back and forth between Laurelhurst Park and SES is not working.

Jan Molinaro, Co-chair of Sunnyside Prepared and a frequent contributor to the newsletter, led the emergency preparedness presentation and discussion. Jan asked SNA board members, and then the rest of the 25 attendees, to describe their efforts at preparedness. Several other NET volunteers were on hand and the discussion was both serious and supportive. They emphasized that no one "has to do it all by themselves." Cooperating with neighbors is key.

Hope to see you all at the February SNA General Meeting. Stay safe.

#### **Emergency Preparedness and the SNA Board Meeting**

*By Jan S Molinaro, Co-Chair, Sunnyside Prepared!*

The January 14, 2021 meeting, which devoted forty-five minutes to a lively discussion around emergency preparedness was well-attended – more than 25 Sunnysiders participated. The SNA board members first shared where they and their families were on the "preparedness continuum." Other community members then shared their work around this important, and always timely topic.

I led the discussion, with the support of a few other Sunnyside Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) members. It's good to know that two SNA board members are also NET members, and one board member is a NET applicant.

For resources, please visit the Sunnyside Prepared! site: <https://sunnysideportland.org/committees/emergency-preparedness/>

I look forward to more discussions at future SNA board meetings. Many thanks to all

those who attended. This pandemic has surely shown us all the importance of being and staying prepared for any and all disasters.

#### **SNA Community Safety & Livability Update**

*By Jes Maran, Chair, Community Safety & Livability Committee*

The Community Safety & Livability Committee had a very busy month. In addition to the monthly meeting, the committee held a very successful winter gear drive and opened up two volunteer opportunities: trash cleanup volunteer and shower monitor.

Members of the committee also witnessed the sweep of the unhoused campers along SE 35th and Yamhill Streets in late January. This sweep, initiated by the City's Homelessness and Urban Camping Impact Reduction Program (HUCIRP), followed a more targeted sweep of unsheltered residents along SE 34th. It sent about 15 people (11 tents) back to camping along SE Oak Street, adjacent to Laurelhurst Park.

#### **Upcoming Meetings**

*Meetings are being held virtually.*

**Check [sunnysideportland.org](https://sunnysideportland.org) one week in advance for a Zoom link and agenda.**

#### **SNA General and Board Meeting**

Second Thursday of the month

7pm -9pm

(Feb. 11th, March 11th)

#### **Community Safety & Livability Committee**

Third Thursday of the month

6:30pm - 7:30pm

(Feb. 18th, March 18th)

Others moved to various other locations throughout Sunnyside and adjacent neighborhoods. HUCIRP representatives told SNA board members that they have a matrix that identifies which camps will and will not be swept. The agency's COVID protocols say that any encampment with 8 or more tents could trigger a sweep. As of printing day, Oak Street has been posted for a sweep.

At the January 21st meeting, about 20 neighbors joined the Zoom call to listen to two guest speakers who have been working with houseless communities in their respective neighborhoods. Tom Hickey, Chair of the Bridgeton Neighborhood Association shared the history of the Community First Statement (which was adopted by the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association at our December 2020 general meeting). The Community First Statement came out of a letter that Tom penned to the City in early 2020 in response to neighborhood concerns about the impacts of rising numbers of houseless residents in north and northeast Portland neighborhoods. After conversations with the with Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods, the Interfaith Alliance on Poverty, other houseless advocacy organizations, and the Joint Office of Houseless Services, the letter evolved into the Community First Statement. Tom noted that he realized in retrospect that the original letter was a bit naïve. The current statement is founded on centering compassion, seeking to support both unhoused and house neighbors, and finding cooperative solutions—both immediate and long-term.. He also emphasized the importance of bringing Neighborhood Associations into this conversation.

The Downtown Neighborhood Association (DNA), one of the key participants in the development of the Community First Statement, has taken to heart the importance of neighborhood associations in reducing the impacts of houselessness. David Dickson and Darlene Urban-Garrett, co-chairs of the DNA Homeless Houseless Team, shared a summary of DNA's Good Neighbor Program.

The Downtown Neighborhood and the Old Town Neighborhood experienced significant numbers of houseless residents flip-flopping between neighborhoods as sweeps dislocated campers with no sanctioned camping sites where houseless people could safely establish stable sites. The Homeless Houseless Team, originally a part of the DNA's Safety and Livability

Committee, realized that they didn't know a lot about houseless issues and that their research revealed conflicting data from different sources—so they decided to host an educational forum on houselessness with 15 guest speakers. . The level of interest was through the roof—200 people signed up. From that forum, the Homeless Houseless Team came up with 309 solutions for solving houselessness. The team whittled that down to 17 actions that they could concentrate on with a team of volunteers.

One of those actions was an audit of houseless residents. Dividing the neighborhood into 22 4x4 block sections, volunteers walked the neighborhood meeting people and handing out water and survival items on a block-by-block basis. That summer, there were about 200 unsheltered people living within the DNA boundaries. As the volunteers finished up the audit, they began thinking about what could be done for unsheltered neighbors during the winter months. Out of this initial exercise, the Good Neighbor Project was born. Today, 36 volunteers from the DNA, with two or three volunteers covering each four-by-four block section, walk the neighborhood every week or two. The volunteers have three goals for these walks—give out survival items, build trust and relationships, and provide referrals and resources to raise people up. Urban-Garrett emphasized that getting to know your houseless neighbors is important for many reasons, one of which is you will be in a better position to help them.

For more information about this program, visit [www.portlanddowntownna.com/news/good-neighbor-program/](http://www.portlanddowntownna.com/news/good-neighbor-program/)

## Web Resources

There is so much to be learned about homelessness, which is a complex issue with multi-layered causes. For more information, consider visiting these websites:

- Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS): <https://multco.us/joint-office-homeless-services>
- Homelessness and Urban Camping Impact Reduction Program (HUCIRP): <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/toolkit/article/562211>
- Shelter to Housing Continuum Project: <https://www.portland.gov/bps/s2hc>
- Conscious Communities with People Outside (C3PO): <https://www.oregonhumanities.org/rll/beyond-the-margins/the-family-you-choose/>
- Sacramento's Safe Ground ordinance: <https://www.sacbee.com/news/local/article248613475.html>

## Sunnyside Winter Gear Drive

*by Ash Hester, SNA Member At Large*

On a sunny Saturday in January, neighbors from across Sunnyside brought their lightly used winter clothing, boots and coats to the Southeast Uplift parking lot. The outpouring of support was abundant!

The next morning, despite the grey wet weather, our team of volunteers rocked it for phase 2 of the Winter Gear Drive. We quickly set up on Yamhill St between 34th and 35th under a tent to be greeted by eager campers ready to do some winter shopping. A nearby housed neighbor set up a hot refreshments station—an extremely thoughtful touch to the big event! We had a wonderful turnout giving away 3/4 of Saturday's donations and campers leaving happy and prepared for the cold week ahead.







## Getting to Know Your Neighbors: Michele Stokes and Brandon Sawyer

By Hannah Wallace, SNA Member At Large

You might recognize Michele Stokes and Brandon Sawyer, who live on 30th and Hawthorne, because they're frequently out and about walking their dog Zola and grand-dog Scrappy (Brandon's college-aged daughter's dog). Dogs actually brought the couple together—in 2003. "We met at Hosford Middle School at the dog park," says Stokes. They lived together in a house on Yamill and 23rd before moving to a 824-square-foot condo in Sunnyside. Stokes, a massage therapist and pilates instructor at Gyre Bodyworks (2928 SE Hawthorne Blvd.) is studying to be a health coach. She's also a long-time volunteer for Friends of the Library. Brandon is the data editor at Portland Business Journal, where he produces the data-driven articles and lists like Portland's Top Law Firms and Fastest Growing Companies. A longtime homebrewer, he's recently been experimenting with pumpkin porter and a fresh-hop IPA. "I call it condo brew," he says, chuckling. "I boil the wort on our stove and let it ferment in our closet for a couple of weeks."

### How long have you lived in Sunnyside?

**Michele:** About 11 years. We moved here, to the Del Mar Condominiums, in 2009.

**Brandon:** The neighborhood has changed a lot over the past decade. There used to be an Asian market across the street, and Artichoke music. It's kind of weird because the neighborhood gentrified, but with not very attractive apartment buildings—!

### Do you guys rent or own?

**Brandon:** We own.

### What do you love about Sunnyside?

**Michele:** I like the convenience—all the wonderful restaurants, coffee shops, and grocery stores. It's so walkable and bike-friendly.

**Brandon:** Yeah, and you can go up to Laurelhurst and Mount Tabor and it's very easy to get downtown in 10 or 15 minutes. Also, it has its own character.

### Like most of us, you probably haven't been out to eat in a while, but what about take-out? What are your favorites?

**Michele:** All the time! We love Sudra and Pad Thai Kitchen (on 23rd and Belmont). When we lived over there, we got attached to it.

**Brandon:** Or we'll order from Harlow or Sweet Hereafter.

### What's one thing you would like to see change about Sunnyside?

**Brandon:** The traffic. If the transit were better than it was—more frequent—then maybe people would drive less. I don't think you could put a light rail though our neighborhood, but maybe down Powell? There's no light rail in Southeast. And then obviously, more affordable housing. Housing for people that are houseless. I don't know if that's something the city could solve or if it needs to be a federal effort, but there are too many people who are living on the streets without a safety net.

**Michele:** There needs to be more public toilets—all over Portland. This is something we talk about a lot!

**Brandon:** We need free public bathrooms everywhere, that are clean and publicly serviced. And public water fountains.

**Michele:** When COVID hit they shut everything down and suddenly there was nowhere to go to the bathroom!

**Brandon:** Another thing that could be improved in our neighborhood is street repair. There are pot holes in a lot of streets that have not been paved in a long time. Even bikes are having a hard time on the streets these days.

### Michele, how has COVID impacted your Gyre Bodyworks practice?

I had to close my practice for four months when COVID hit, and all the contract work I had for Multnomah County and businesses (doing chair massages, and teaching movement and pilates) dried up, too. Now I'd say 2/3rds of my regular clientele is back. I also work a few hours a week at a medical clinic. That's one reason I began studying to be a health coach—I wanted something I could do from home.

To see Stokes' monthly massage and pilates specials, see [www.gyrebodyworks.com](http://www.gyrebodyworks.com). She adheres to strict COVID protocols at her practice.

## Volunteer Opportunities

By Jes Maran, Chair, Community Safety & Livability Committee

**Cleanup Crew.** Members of the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association are actively engaged in trash pickup and other cleanup activities throughout the neighborhood. Volunteers can participate in a number of ways including from walking a prescribed route and picking up small litter and debris to assisting with bagging and hauling large piles of abandoned or discarded waste. Equipment can be provided by the SNA. To learn more or to volunteer, please contact Vincent Dawans – [dawansv@gmail.com](mailto:dawansv@gmail.com).

The Cleanup Crew has organized a SOLVE clean-up of the Belmont corridor, happening just after this newsletter goes to print. We'll tell you all about it next month!

**Shower Monitor.** The Groves Church has generously opened up their shower facilities for houseless neighbors to use on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-5PM. Volunteers are needed to support this service! For more information, visit [sunnysideportland.org/2021/01/15/volunteer-opportunity-shower-monitor/](http://sunnysideportland.org/2021/01/15/volunteer-opportunity-shower-monitor/). To volunteer, contact [hannahmwallace@gmail.com](mailto:hannahmwallace@gmail.com)

The Church has very strict COVID protocols on which our continued use of the facility depends. Volunteers and participants must wear masks (except while showering) and remain 6 feet apart at all times. Everyone must also sign in and out with their name and how to contact them so the church can do contact tracing if necessary.

## Yesterday Awaits

By Pat Kiser, SNA Member at Large

Today can be everything  
Yesterday was not...  
Today can become  
Anything yet unsought.

So let yesterday have  
Its space in time....  
Or today will become  
Only yesterday's mime.

Such wondrous possibilities  
Await in today...  
Awaiting to become  
What will be yesterday.



NEIGHBORHOOD WORKS  
REAL ESTATE

JARRETT ALTMAN  
Principal Broker & Founder

JARRETT@OURNEIGHBORHOODWORKS.COM  
503 407-4200

OURNEIGHBORHOODWORKS.COM



3415 SE BELMONT STREET PORTLAND, ORE.

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

## KARLENE BASKIND INTERIOR DESIGN

SENSUAL, SUSTAINABLE  
INTERIORS



KARLENEBASKINDID.COM  
HELLO@KARLENEBASKINDID.COM  
(503) 495-3884  
NCIDQ CERTIFIED #34948



www.hawthorneauto.com

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

Newsletter Coordinator: Ash Hester

Editor: Gloria Jacobs

Layout: Jessie Maran

Delivery Coordinator: Diana Deumling

Dave Boush.....President  
Russell Rinaldi.....Vice President  
Lorraine Henriques.....Secretary  
K.C. Hoffert.....Treasurer  
Sunia Gibbs.....Director-at-Large  
Ash Hester.....Director-at-Large  
Jessie Maran.....Director-at-Large  
Christy Yeoumans.....Director-at-Large  
Matt Lembo.....Director-at-Large

SunnysidePortland.org  
c/o SEUL, 3534 SE Main, Portland, OR  
97214

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.

## Sunnyside Neighborhood 'Gap Map'

Live near any of the blocks marked in black below? We need your help!  
Contact dianadeumling@gmail.com to volunteer for our delivery service.

Delivery help  
needed here

