

# SUNNYSIDE

## *Neighborhood News*

### January 2022

SUNNYSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

SunnysidePortland.org

board@sunnysideportland.org

#### **Last Month's News. This Month's Plans.**

*By Ash Hester, SNA President*

On December 9th, the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association welcomed Oregon State Representative Rob Nosse who shared legislative highlights and answered questions. Chris Waldmann, SNA Board member, shared an overview of the City's Charter Review. Highlights from the Charter Review are in a separate article in the newsletter. SE Uplift is still accepting applicants to apply for their Small Grants and DEIA Capacity Building Grants. Learn more and apply by January 10th at [seuplift.org/grants-application-2021-2022](https://seuplift.org/grants-application-2021-2022).

The SNA was recently approached by Josh Roll, a member of PBOT's Pedestrian Advisory Committee, seeking our support for the city to restart its Traffic Calming Program. Josh will be joining us at our January general meeting to discuss this program and other low-cost solutions for pedestrian safety on our neighborhood streets.

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming January meeting on Thursday the 13th. Meeting details and the agenda will be posted on the SNA website ([sunnysideportland.org](https://sunnysideportland.org)) on Tuesday the 11th. The General meeting is from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. with the Board meeting to follow directly after from 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. Every resident living within the Sunnyside neighborhood is a part of the Neighborhood Association so we encourage you to join us in making Sunnyside a thriving community. We'd like to hear your feedback and ideas!

#### **Requesting Support for the PBOT Traffic Calming Program**

*By Josh Roll, PBOT's Pedestrian  
Advisory Committee*

The issue of street safety comes up at the Mount Tabor Neighborhood Association (MTNA) meetings on a regular basis but our group does not have many tools to offer neighbors in slowing vehicle traffic on their streets. Speed bumps are a proven traffic calming roadway treatment. On the streets in our neighborhood where speed bumps are present, traffic speeds are lower and conditions safer. In 2018, our neighbors successfully installed speed bumps on Thornburn Street and it has had a measurable impact on making the street safer.

PBOT is considering reinstating the traffic calming program whereby residents can self-fund speed bumps in their neighborhoods. MTNA encourages the city to take the necessary steps to reinstate this valuable program. Our neighborhood

association would appreciate knowing about other opportunities to support this and other programs that can help make our streets safer. We hope that SNA will join us in this effort. I will be making a presentation at the January 2022 meeting, so please attend if this issue is of interest or concern.

#### **Emergency Preparedness**

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

It's Saturday, December 11, 2021 and the weather outside is rainy and windy with all sorts of alerts, watches and warnings beeping on my cell phone. And, an email request for possible standby deployment in case of power outages and downed power lines. And, a reminder for NETs (Portland Neighborhood Emergency Team members) to check on our street drains and bioswales to keep them free of debris. And that was just in the past 24 hours!

In addition, there are NET volunteers working on a daily basis year-round to connect with neighbors around emergency preparedness, volunteer at vaccination clinics and help out at shelters set-up during weather extremes — both hot and cold weather.

In order to do our work safely we are trained and can opt to receive additional training (currently online) so that we are prepared for deployments. Since COVID began, more city and county agencies are asking for NET volunteers and hundreds of volunteers have put in thousands of hours.

You do not need to be trained to be of service to your neighbors in Sunnyside. What tools, skill sets, and training do you have to help others? Do you know who

#### **Upcoming Meetings**

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

##### **DEIA Committee Meeting**

Second Tuesday of the month  
6:30pm - 7:30pm  
(January 11th, February 9th)

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

Second Thursday of the month  
General Meeting: 7:00pm - 8:00pm  
Board Meeting: 8:00pm - 9:00pm  
(January 13th, February 11th)

##### **SNACC Meeting**

Third Thursday of the month  
6:30pm - 7:30pm  
(January 20th, February 18th)

your neighbors are? Have you talked to them about preparedness?

What steps towards preparedness are you willing and able to take during the winter months?

Questions? Comments? Need support in getting prepared? I have the time and the resources to support you. Email me at [jan@sunnysideprepared.com](mailto:jan@sunnysideprepared.com)

## **Sunnyside Neighborhood Community Cares (SNACC) Committee Updates**

*By Emily McCadden, SNACC Co-Chair, SNA Board Member*

We had a productive meeting in-person for the first time since Covid! We went through a quick orientation to transformative justice processes and what they can look like. We then discussed outreach strategies to build stronger relationships with the houseless community living in Sunnyside. We plan to partner up and divide up the neighborhood to do this outreach, initially to spread the word about the shower program and eventually to assist in conflict mediation and transformative justice processes, if appropriate. We also discussed the response we received from the City of Portland's Homelessness and Urban Camping Impact Reduction Program (HUCIRP) last month. We went through the letter point-by-point to note inaccuracies based on our various experiences. We discussed further action, like gathering testimonials from other folks or publishing an article.

We encourage anyone who is interested in these efforts to attend our next SNACC meeting on Thursday the 20th at 6:30 p.m. Meeting details will be posted on the SNA website the week of January 17th.

## **Sunnyside Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) Committee Updates**

*By Ash Hester, DEIA Chair and SNA President*

The DEIA Committee was canceled in December. Meetings will now meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. January's meeting will be held on January 11, 2022. Meeting details will be posted on the SNA website on Monday the 10th.

## **Portland Charter Review**

*By Chris Waldmann, SNA Board Member*

The Portland Charter Review Commission (PCRC) is currently working on recommendations to update the governing document of the city, focusing on the overall form of government and how city elections are conducted. If their first set of proposals receive support from 15 out of 22 commissioners, they will appear on the November 2022 general election ballot.

The PCRC committees have found early consensus on the following ideas:

- *Expanding the City Council*
- *Removing council members from directly running city bureaus and agencies*
- *Redefining the roles of the mayor and city council*
- *Moving elections to a system whereby winners will be determined in a single election rather than a primary or general election*

These are just frameworks and the details are under discussion. The PCRC will be hosting its next rounds of listening sessions in January. For more information please see [portland.gov/omf/charter-review-commission](http://portland.gov/omf/charter-review-commission).

## **The Need for Foster Care Parents**

*By Hallie Campbell, Outreach Coordinator for Boys & Girls Aid*

### **You Can Help Oregon's Foster Care Crisis**

On any given day, there are 7,000 children in Oregon's foster care system. Many of these children come from situations of abuse and neglect only to find themselves facing uncertainty and instability once they enter foster care.

Boys & Girls Aid, a nonprofit founded in Portland in 1885, wants to change that. We are looking for compassionate people to help improve the lives of children in foster care.

A good foster home is often the first place a child in foster care has felt safe in a long time. Foster parents help children build trust in adults and provide a supportive environment where they can thrive.

Boys & Girls Aid supports foster parents with responsive program staff available 24/7, ongoing free professional training, and generous monthly, tax-free stipends ranging from \$1,200 to \$3,500 per month. There are options to fit every family, from

full-time placement to relief care a few days a month.

Fostering children might bring life changes and challenges, but it's a great opportunity to make a difference in a child's life — and in your own life, too. "It's worth it to get to know these kids," said experienced foster parents Jen and Chad. "It enriched our lives a lot."

To learn more, visit our website [boysandgirlsaid.org/fostercare](http://boysandgirlsaid.org/fostercare), or contact Outreach Coordinator Scott Appel at (503) 542-2316 or [sappel@boysandgirlsaid.org](mailto:sappel@boysandgirlsaid.org).

## **The Origins of the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association**

*By Vincent Dawans, SNA Treasurer*

The Sunnyside Piazza is the painted intersection at SE 33rd and Yamhill. It was repainted (with a new design) during the first week-end of October. The original design dated back to 2001 when a group of neighbors on the four corners of the intersection decided to beautify their street. Additional sidewalk features were built in the years after. Although the corner was chosen by the local neighbors at the time, the area around the intersection is of historical significance.

When the Sunnyside Land Improvement Company began developing the area for residential use in 1888, the original subdivision plat only covered an area roughly matching the section of today's Sunnyside west of Chavez Blvd. Hence the location of the Piazza is close to Sunnyside's original geographical center (around 34th and Yamhill, instead of today's Chavez and Yamhill). Just one block north of the Piazza, at Belmont and 33rd, was the site of the first grocery store in the area, owned by Conrad Green. It was located at the NE corner of 33rd and Belmont on the land that is occupied today by the main entrance to H-Mart. Across the street, on the SE corner of 33rd and Belmont, is one of the oldest (probably THE oldest) main street buildings on that stretch of Belmont, built in 1889, just one year after Sunnyside was officially established. Finally, the development of Sunnyside was only made possible by the arrival of the Sunnyside Trolley Line that terminated on that very same block of Belmont (later to be extended all the way to Mt Tabor).

The blocks to the South and North of the Piazza are also the location of a "Model Block" project that took place over two years in 1973-1974 and was sponsored by



the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association soon after its creation in 1972. As reported in the Oregonian at the time, “to set an example for all residents, the Model Block strip -- two blocks of mostly run-down houses between SE Belmont and Taylor streets on SE 33rd Avenue -- was selected for a facelift. The Project was unique in Portland in its effort to improve a neighborhood without direct financial assistance from city or federal sources. Instead, residents themselves were enlisted to recruit needed supplies and the muscle to apply them”.

The blocks to the East and West of the Piazza, between 31st and 35th are also of historical significance. Deep under the street lies the upper end of the “great Sunnyside Sewer”. Built in 1892 and 1893, it was one of the most extensive sewer lines ever built in the Northwest at the time. It was made out of bricks and had an impressive 7 feet at the lower end and 34 inches at the upper end. This was the main line into which all other local sewer lines on the Eastside would eventually connect. Most of the upper part of the line is still in the ground today, although no longer in service. It ran down Yamhill for a few blocks, before shifting to Belmont at around 31st street, then crossing underneath Colonel Summers park towards Hawthorne and eventually the Willamette River. Most of it has been decommissioned over the years, but the route of our main sewer line still follows the same path. The upper section under Yamhill was still in service until very recently, having served us for over 125 years. In fact, the reason the Piazza had to be fully repainted this year is because the intersection had to be fully opened in order to replace the pipe.

## **Sunnyside Neighborhood Getting to Know Your Neighbors**

*By Cole White, Writer and  
Sunnyside Shower Volunteer*

### **Q&A with Scott Rupp**

Scott Rupp, 59, has lived on the streets of Sunnyside and thereabouts since 2019. He's easy to spot because he's always blaring Rock & Roll—especially Tool. His music inhabits every empty space and crevice; there's no escape. Follow the noise and realize that Scott, like Rock & Roll, is here to stay.

**How long have you lived in the Sunnyside area or back and forth between Sunnyside and Laurelhurst following the city's constant sweeps?**

**Scott:** About three years now. I've lived in Portland for 59 years.

**How long have you been living on the streets?**

**Scott:** 25 years.

**What kind of music do you like?**

**Scott:** I love Tool. I think Maynard should be president. [Maynard James Keenan is the lead vocalist of Tool, an alternative metal band from Los Angeles.]

**What's something good or one of the good things that happened while you've been out here?**

**Scott:** (Laughter) Oh my God. What's good? What's good? These are hard questions.

**What do you think about the guys who drive their cars slowly by and glare at us?**

**Scott:** I think they're misinformed. I think they want to see something for themselves. I think they have a shallow life; I think they have more of a shallow life than I have.

**How many times have you been assaulted by housed people?**

**Scott:** Well, the times I've been assaulted, I never asked them beforehand if they had a house or not. I don't know if that has anything to do with it. I've been jumped by young men who were drunk at the time. There were four of them and I got hit in the head with a bottle four times. It messed my back up. Messed my train of thought up. I stutter now...now and then because of it.

**You applied for Section 8 housing but that was denied.**

**Scott:** I applied for Social Security, too, and I was denied. Because they always do that. They always deny you [...] They'll deny you. They deny you about three times and then give it to ya. Because hopefully, you'll just quit applying.

**Can you tell people how your wife, Debbie Ann Beaver, passed away?**

**Scott:** She was in a car wreck when she was 18 years old and had severe head injuries as a result. She was taking seizure medication ever since she was 18 years old, up until the time she passed away. When we were living at Sunnyside Park three years ago, Rapid Response

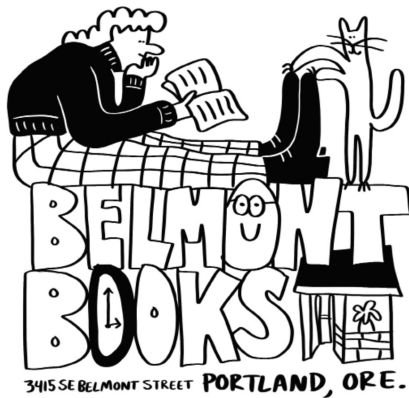


came through and took all...all...all of our belongings. And in her belongings was her medication. She had a grand mal seizure and went into a coma. Rapid Response was there again that day, because they come back again within 10 days to verify if you've moved back or not — back in your spot or not — which we had. And, ah, found her laying on the ground and wouldn't allow anybody else to do anything...do anything for her. And they let her lay there and die. They wanted to fight with people, instead of help her.

**I'm sure if I'd had the chance to meet her, if she was hanging out with you, she had to be cool.**

**Scott:** She had to be cool because she was a person, man. She was a person. She was no animal. She didn't deserve to die like that. Nobody deserves to die like that. On the side of the street... (In the background, the roar of some dumb engine, its muffler spitting cancer in the street close to us.) People all around her.

For his wife's wrongful death, Rupp currently awaits negotiations from the City of Portland's lawyers. In a July Willamette Week article ([www.week.com/news/courts/2021/07/28/legal-notice-alleges-portland-city-contractors-swept-a-homeless-womans-medication-leading-to-her-death](http://www.week.com/news/courts/2021/07/28/legal-notice-alleges-portland-city-contractors-swept-a-homeless-womans-medication-leading-to-her-death)), Rupp's attorney, Michael Fuller, said Beaver's medication was to “treat symptoms from seizures due to a head injury, high blood pressure and diabetes.”



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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](mailto:newsletter@sunnysideportland.org).** Many wonderful volunteer Sunnyside residents distribute the Neighborhood News.



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## Sunnyside Neighborhood 'Gap Map'

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

**Delivery help  
needed here**

