

# SUNNYSIDE

## *Neighborhood News*

### September 2022

SUNNYSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
SunnysidePortland.org      board@sunnysideportland.org

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

*By Hannah Wallace,  
SNA Vice President*

As I write this at the end of August we just had our first Board Meeting with our newly formed board. We elected Chris Waldmann to be our President but we plan to rotate some of the duties traditionally performed by President between four board members over the coming year to give each of us a chance to be presiding officer. Each person will assume these duties for three months (Chris being the first) but Chris will remain the official elected President. Chris, who has lived in Sunnyside for six years, has been a board member for a year and was formerly the president of his neighborhood association in Washington, D.C.

The SNACC committee has been busy organizing two volunteer orientations. We hope to gain a handful of new Shower Project volunteers as a result.

We will hold the General Meetings on the 2nd Thursday of the month, as per usual, but the new board has decided to have a General Meeting only **every other month**. There will be a General Meeting in September, November, January, etc. (They happen on odd numbered months.)

Our Sept. 8th General Meeting will be held in person at Southeast Uplift (3534 SE Main St.) from 7-8:30 p.m. (We plan to have a Zoom link for those who don't want to attend in person. Check the website for details a few days before.) Our guest speaker will be Melanie Billings-Yun from the City Charter Review Commission. She will speak about the upcoming Portland Charter Commission ballot initiative,

so come prepared with questions. (See Chris Waldmann's column about this on pg. 2 for details). This will be an important meeting because at the end, we would like the SNA membership to vote on whether or not to endorse the initiative. We need at least 15 members present in person or on Zoom in order to hold a full vote. If we don't have at least 15 members, the board will vote on the measure, but we really want to have a larger neighborhood voice on this issue. So, please join us and bring a Sunnyside friend!

We hope to see you in September!

#### Every Month is a Preparedness Month!

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

Searching on social media it is easy to find a monthly preparedness topic, usually connected to seasonal weather patterns. There are national preparedness month designations and they may vary depending on where you live in the world. Here is a useful link for a year-round preparedness calendar: [www.ready.gov/calendar](http://www.ready.gov/calendar)

#### Upcoming Meetings

**Check [sunnysideportland.org](http://sunnysideportland.org) in advance for location details and agenda.**

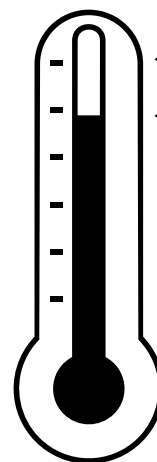
##### September Meetings

September 8: 7:00 - 8:30pm SNA General  
September 8: 8:30 - 9:00pm SNA Board  
September 15: 6:30 - 7:30pm SNACC

##### October Meetings

\*No SNA General meeting  
October 13: 7:00 - 8:00pm SNA Board  
October 20: 6:30 - 7:30pm SNACC

#### Support Your Sunnyside Newsletter



◀ Goal: \$6,000

◀ Raised: \$4,995

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space in future issues.

As a Sunnyside Portland NET (Neighborhood Emergency Team) member, I am trained to prepare for the most severe event, which in our part of the world is an earthquake. So, if you are prepared for an earthquake, you are essentially prepared for any weather emergency. It's a cascading (no pun intended) continuum.

Sunnysiders are advised to 'start where you are' and build from there. Depending upon your family status, you probably have different needs for preparedness. If possible, involve family members in your prep, and maybe some close neighbors and friends as well.

Consider 'mapping your neighborhood'\* so that you form greater connections to your neighbors and become aware of the

skills and resources that are available if/when they are needed. Neighborhood is loosely defined to include your workplace, school, etc.

Like anything worth doing, this takes time, effort, and cooperation. Feel free to contact me at [jan@sunnysideprepared.com](mailto:jan@sunnysideprepared.com) if you have questions.

\* Continue to use creative ways to connect to your neighbors during this time of COVID. Here are some ideas: snail mail a card to a new or old neighbor, create a chalk drawing on the sidewalk in front of where you live, walk around and greet others on your block. What else might you do?

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

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

Last month the SNACC committee reviewed the strategic planning conversation we started at the beginning of the summer. In our June meeting, we did a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis with volunteers. We then revisited the needs assessment results and focused our energy on recruiting more volunteers, with the goal of extending operating hours at the Sunnyside Shower Project (SSP) and increasing access for guests.

We held two volunteer orientations in August and 6 new volunteers have since joined us. We hope to continue outreach to gain more volunteer support so that we can open the SSP for additional days and times since this was the number one need identified in the needs assessment.

Finally, we're very excited to announce the art installation *Artist Unknown* which will be open at the Sunnyside Methodist Church and Community Center (3520 SE Yamhill St) from 5-9 p.m. on September 2nd and 3rd. This art show will feature works by unhoused artists, some of whom have been guests at the SSP. Artists will have works available for purchase and light refreshments will be available. Donations will be accepted and will go toward making long-overdue repairs to church windows. More information about this art show is available at [www.eventbrite.com/e/artist-unknown-tickets-394437612517](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/artist-unknown-tickets-394437612517). The next SNACC meeting will take place on Thursday September 15th from 6:30-8 p.m., location to be determined.

## **Charter Commission Update**

*By Chris Waldmann, SNA President*

Recently, the Portland Charter Commission approved a plan to be voted on in the November election. This will be an opportunity for Portlanders to vote on the form we want our government to take and how our elections will work in the future. The Charter Commission has approved the following items in the measure:

- City Councilors will no longer manage City Bureaus.
- The mayor will no longer sit as a member of the City Council, but will have a vote to break ties.
- The mayor will appoint a City Manager with day-to-day management responsibilities over the city bureaus. The City Manager appointment will be approved by a majority of the Council.
- The mayor will not have veto authority over the City Council.
- The City Council will include 12 members elected from four geographic districts, each having three members.
- A ranked-choice-voting system will be put in place where voters may select multiple candidates running in their home district and order their choices. The top three vote getters will be elected.

The commission, arguing that these reforms work as a whole to increase representation, accountability, and improved governance, decided to place all of these measures into a single Yes/No ballot question.

We will have a member of the Charter Review Commission at our September 8th meeting to present the plan and answer questions from the community. This is an important and complex topic. Please bring your questions! The meeting will take place at SE Uplift, 3534 SE Main St. at 7 p.m.

You can read more at the Charter Commission website, [www.portland.gov/omf/charter-review-commission](http://www.portland.gov/omf/charter-review-commission).

## **SE 31st Ave. Closure Announcement**

Due to ongoing construction of the 62-unit apartment building at 3031 SE Hawthorne

Blvd, SE 31st Ave. will be closed to thru-traffic at the north side of the intersection with SE Hawthorne for 10-16 months. If you have questions, please contact SK Hoff Construction's project manager Jason Amato at [jamato@skhoff.com](mailto:jamato@skhoff.com).

## **Belmont Street Fair**

The annual Belmont Street Fair is back, bringing the community together to celebrate local creators, musicians, performers and chefs! The fair will be held on Saturday, September 10th from 1-5 p.m. For more info and volunteer opportunities, visit [www.belmontdistrict.org/belmont-street-fair](http://www.belmontdistrict.org/belmont-street-fair).

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

*By Hannah Wallace, SNA Vice President*

**Q&A with Dr. Eryn Berg, Principal, Sunnyside Environmental School**

When she became the principal of Sunnyside Environmental School (SES) last year, Dr. Eryn Berg says it felt like a homecoming. "I was born on Southeast 53rd St," says Berg. "And my grandma used to have chickens. So last year when I moved my stuff over to the school and heard the chickens, I was like, 'I feel like I'm home.'" A former high school English teacher who also writes poetry, Berg is a huge fan of Sunnyside, the neighborhood, as well (though she currently lives in Roseway). With school starting on August 30th, she has her hands full with meetings and welcoming teachers back to SES but she took the time to speak to us in mid-August.

### **What did you do before becoming principal at SES?**

**Eryn:** I've been an administrator at PPS for 15 years. Before that I was a high school English teacher at the High School of Telecommunication Arts & Technology in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. I used to live in the Williamsburg neighborhood of Brooklyn.

### **What do you love most about your job and SES?**

**Eryn:** Oh—everything. I love the mission and vision of the school, the commitment to place-based education, environmental and social justice. I love the kids! Plus, the teachers and the staff are just phenomenal. They are so committed to the kids and to education. Every single time I think about





*Dr. Eryn Berg, Principal at Sunnyside Environmental School*

our teachers I get really excited for the year ahead and our next steps as a school and bringing that mission and vision into this world post-lockdown. We're going to be able to do our morning meetings again! Our field trips! We're so about community.

**What do you love about Sunnyside, the neighborhood?**

**Eryn:** I love how it feels a little bit like a small town even though it's part of the bigger city of Portland. People are always walking and riding bikes. Even the school grounds is used by all of the neighborhood. Everyone has an association and kinship with Sunnyside. Oregon Poet Laureate Anis Mojgani has his studio across from the playground where he does poetry out of his window every two weeks. I've gone a couple times and I'll see all the neighborhood folks. Actually, no matter where you go in Sunnyside, you are gonna run into people you know. I'll often see kids on the street, and they say, "Hey, that's my principal!"

**What's one thing you would change about Sunnyside, if you could?**

**Eryn:** You know what I would love to see? Community Centers. Faubion School (on NE Dekum) was set up with a health center and a grocery store. Our schools should be set up to be more like community centers. Obviously it's hard if there isn't enough funding or staffing, but that's one thing I'd like to see in Sunnyside.

**What would you like Portlanders to know about SES?**

**Eryn:** I would love for more people to know about SES and what we do. In an ideal world, all schools would be like

Sunnyside, where they are centered around environmental justice and where kids are taught to be critical thinkers and movers in our world. The kids at Sunnyside are such strong advocates! This is a school that is doing it. We have room to grow, of course—academics, rigor in the classroom, etc.—but we have all the right bones. So it's just about moving forward. Those kids are gonna be the environmental leaders of the future.

We also have a couple of strong houseless advocates who are SES parents who I will call if there's somebody in the park who might need food or other services.

**Cat or Dog?**

**Eryn:** Oh dog—for sure! I have a 55-pound lab-shepherd mix. Sometimes she comes to school, but she's not quite as good of a therapy dog as others. She gets a little shy and ducks away from folks. But during the summer I sometimes bring her in.

**\*New Column: Critics Corner**

Sunnyside students, please submit ideas or a review to [Hannahmw Wallace@gmail.com](mailto:Hannahmw Wallace@gmail.com).

**CAMPS & CLASSES**  
**Dance Community Theater**  
Ages 5-14



First we dream. Then we fly.

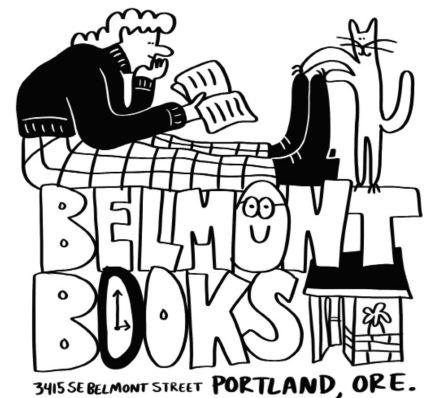
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The Sunnyside Neighborhood News is published monthly by the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association.

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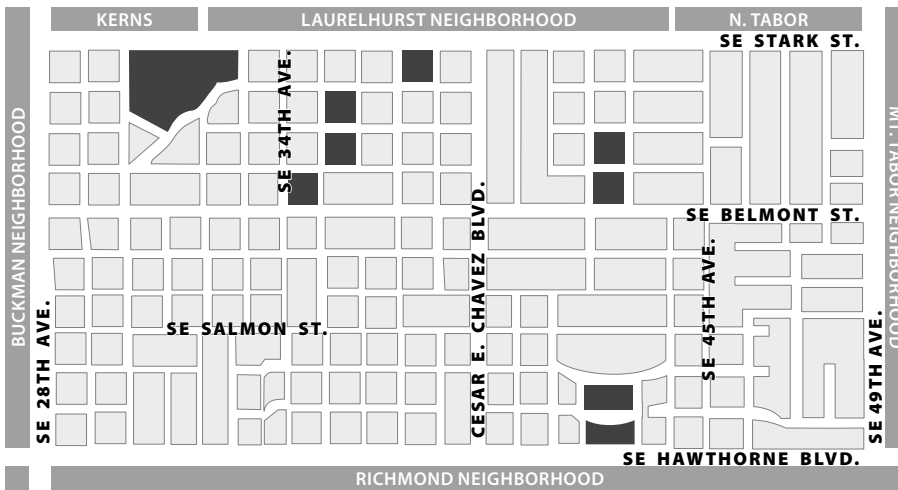
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Any opinions expressed, unless specified, are not necessarily those of the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association or its board. **Sunnyside residents are welcome to submit articles for consideration that concern neighborhood issues, by emailing [newsletter@sunnysideportland.org](mailto:newsletter@sunnysideportland.org). Deadlines are the 15th of the month prior.** 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](mailto:dianadeumling@gmail.com) to volunteer for our delivery service.

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