

SUNNYSIDE

Neighborhood News

January 2023

SUNNYSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

SunnysidePortland.org

board@sunnysideportland.org

News from the President

By Chris Waldmann, SNA President

Happy New Year Sunnyside!

The big news out of the SNA this month is the success of our annual clothing and gear drive to help our houseless neighbors in this cold and wet season. The event was held indoors this year on December 10th at SE Uplift (SEUL). Thank you to SEUL for providing a warm and inviting space for everyone, a big change from the wet, cold outdoors of past years! Also thank you to New Seasons, Grand Central Bakery and Fried Egg I'm in Love for your generous donations of food for our guests and volunteers. Thanks, too, to Crossroads Trading, Mix Tape, the Mountain Shop, and Next Adventure—all of which donated boxes of warm clothes or gift certificates. The biggest thanks of all goes out to our volunteers for taking the time during this busy holiday season to connect with neighbors living outside. Kudos to the SNACC team for putting together such a wonderful event!

The SNA board met on December 8th for our monthly board meeting. Emily stepped up to take over as the presiding officer for the next few months. She will be coordinating agendas and running our meetings through February. This new arrangement allows board members to share some of the responsibilities and decision-making power of the president, gain valuable experience and distribute some of the administrative burden. We talked about filling vacant, and soon-to-be vacant, positions on the board and committees as well as ways that the SNA can work to improve our diversity and equity lens in the work we do for the neighborhood. More on those topics to come!

Our next general meeting will be on January 12th. We will be talking about a proposed expansion to the greenways system in Sunnyside and a potential endorsement of Quiet Clean PDX's quest to limit the use of gas-powered leaf blowers (see The Scourge of Gas-powered Leaf Blowers).

The SNA Needs You!

The SNA is searching for neighbors to volunteer for a number of openings on our board and committees. Volunteering with the SNA is a great way to bring about positive change in our neighborhood and city, gain new skills, and meet new friends! We are looking for volunteers for the following positions:

Treasurer

The Treasurer is the board officer responsible for managing the finances of the SNA. They create and certify required financial reports and give updates to the board on the financial health of the organization. They are also

a board member, with all of the duties and responsibilities that entails. They may be assisted by a bookkeeper (or perform that role themselves), who would be responsible for the day-to-day accounting duties like balancing the accounts, producing financial reports, preparing payments and processing donation receipts. Our current Treasurer, Vincent, will be leaving us after his term expires. The position will be up for election by the membership during our annual elections this spring.

At-Large Board Members (x2)

Board members help the SNA set a direction for the association. They participate and vote in board meetings, may be assigned to chair committees and may represent the interests of the SNA in front of the city and regional governments.

Land-Use & Transportation Committee Chair

The chair of the Land-Use & Transportation Committee (LUTC) is responsible for representing the SNA's interests regarding development and transportation in the neighborhood. They may coordinate with developers regarding planned buildings, testify to the city about zoning issues and variances, or work with PBOT to make our neighborhood easier to navigate on foot, bike, bus or car. The LUTC chair will give occasional reports to the board, but they do not need to be a board member or officer.

If you (or someone you know) live or work in Sunnyside and are interested in any of these positions, please reach out to board@sunnysideportland.org to learn more.

Upcoming Meetings

Check sunnysideportland.org in advance for location details and agenda.

January Meetings

January 12: 7:00 - 8:30 pm SNA General
January 12: 8:30 - 9:00 pm SNA Board
January 19: 6:30 - 8:00 pm SNACC

February Meetings

February 9: 7:00 - 8:00 pm SNA Board
February 16: 6:30 - 8:00 pm SNACC

The Sunnyside Shower Project
 Making a difference one shower at a time
www.sunnysideshowerproject.org

- Join a crew of 35+ fabulous volunteers
- Meet your houseless neighbors
- Help connect folks with essential hygiene services

Email Hannah at hannahmwallace@gmail.com
 for more info!

Donate to Sunnyside Shower Project Here: 

Sunnyside Neighborhood Community Cares (SNACC) Committee Updates

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

The SNACC committee will meet Thursday January 19th from 6:30–8 p.m. at Southeast Uplift. We are continuing to seek in-kind and financial donations, as well as volunteer support to sustain a new four-day shower schedule at the Sunnyside Community Center. If you are interested in volunteering, please email sunnysideshowerproject@gmail.com. If you'd like to donate, visit www.sunnysideshowerproject.org/donate for more details.

Sunnyside Neighborhood Getting to Know Your Neighbors

By Hannah Wallace, SNA Vice President

Q&A with Erika Bolstad

Journalist Erika Bolstad writes about environmental issues, politics, and the effects of climate change (including natural disasters like Hurricane Katrina). For the past decade, she's also been working on a book, *Windfall: The Prairie Woman Who Lost Her Way and the Great Granddaughter Who Found Her*, which arrives in bookstores on January 17th. *Windfall* is part memoir but it's also a bit of a mystery: who was her great-grandmother, Anna, and why did she unaccountably disappear from her North Dakota homestead in 1907? It's also an excellent primer on the oil industry and fracking and how both impact rural communities in North Dakota. At the heart of the book is a personal dilemma: is it OK to accept a windfall if the industry that produces it furthers climate change?

Bolstad and her husband Chris Waldmann live in Sunnyside with their lab mix Mojie.

Can you explain for those who don't know what owning "mineral rights" even means? It's a strange concept for those of us who don't live in oil states.

Erika: In most parts of the United States, people own the surface of the land and also the earth beneath the surface. But in many places, those two things can be separated—especially in oil patch states. So even though my family no longer owns the land, they still own the mineral rights. And of course, this can end up in all kinds of heartaches. People who own the land don't always own the mineral rights beneath them and don't have a lot of recourse or decision-making power about who drills where.

At the heart of the book is your ambivalence about inheriting these rights and the money that comes from them. Can you explain that ambivalence?

Erika: On the one hand, Americans are conditioned to embrace windfalls, to embrace sudden riches. We all believe deep down that we could get rich. That wealth is almost our due in some ways—even if we fight against that impulse or don't really believe it. It's deep in our culture. My mother was super excited when these envelopes showed up.

She also went to college thanks to those checks from the oil company.

Erika: Yeah. So there's a real legacy of this money having value in my family. I have a deep understanding of the value of these mineral rights to my family and to many other families just like mine all over North Dakota, Oklahoma, and Texas. I get it.

On the other hand, it was so clear from the very beginning that the toll of fracking, the toll of drilling, the toll of boom and bust economies, is really unacceptable. And you can look at the short term toll of it—whether it's the increased toll on roads, air pollution, long-term ground water pollution, and salt spills that damage farmland. Or just building up infrastructure that's unnecessary. There are short term effects and there are long term effects. The long term effect is the scariest, which is climate change. So I saw all of these things the way a journalist does. If not in a neutral way, in a way where I can see them all laid out on the table. And kind of



Journalist, author and Sunnyside resident Erika Bolstad

weigh them and understand how some of them might be more harmful than others.

While doing research at the National Archives in D.C., you discover that Anna was committed to the North Dakota Hospital for the Insane in 1907, after the birth of her son (your grandfather). Later you conclude from her medical files that she most likely had postpartum depression. How did that make you feel? Relieved that we've come a long way in diagnosing postpartum depression?

Erika: I think that a lot of women even now struggle with the after-effects of giving birth—in a society that doesn't have a lot of support for them after their children are born. What they call the fourth trimester. No-one in modern life is being institutionalized in the same way, which is good. But I do think that there are way too many parallels still for modern American women, post birth. So I think we have come far but we also have a long way to go.

I don't want to give away the ending, but I will say that you decide to do something radical with your mineral rights. Just curious, have you made any progress on that?

Erika: I'm still working on that, but it may be revealed in an article I hope to write after my book comes out.

A more quotidian question: when you wrote the book, what was your writing schedule like? Did you write for the

same hours each day? What are your genius writing tips?

Erika: I write best in the morning. I can revise sometimes in the afternoon and evenings, but I'm freshest in the morning. When I wrote the first draft of the book, I actually got up every day at 5:15 a.m. I powered through in the morning, then I walked the dog.

How long have you lived in Sunnyside?

Erika: 5 years. We moved here [from D.C.] when my dad was diagnosed with dementia.

What's one thing you love about Sunnyside?

Erika: I love walking in this neighborhood. I love being able to do most errands on foot and to shop in local stores. I like being able to go to Powell's and dream of my book on the shelf there.

What's one thing that could use improvement?

Erika: Slow down on Hawthorne Boulevard and on 30th! This neighborhood is special because people can walk and bike safely here. Let's keep it that way.

I guess I know the answer already—but cat or dog?

Erika: Dog! Mojie. She's almost six, and she's a lab mix.

As always, if you have any suggestions for subjects for Q&As, please email Hannah at Hannahmwallace@gmail.com

Portland Tillamook Cooperative Preschool is Looking For a New Home

For 25 years, Portland Tillamook Cooperative Preschool has called the Presbyterian Church of Laurelhurst home. That history is about to change. Last October, the Tillamook Preschool board of directors received notice that the school must vacate its classroom at the end of the 2022-2023 school year. The preschool is seeking help to find a new space to lease.

"We are saddened and truly grieving the loss of our amazing location," said Tillamook Preschool's board president, Anne Lagasse. "As a small nonprofit, we are now looking to build a strong relationship with an organization that has a space well suited to support the needs

and minds of young children." Started in 1973 in a house on NE Tillamook Street, the preschool has evolved into a mixed-age, play-based preschool enrolling 38 children and families each year.

Please visit TillamookPreschool.org to learn more and contact Anne Lagasse, Tillamook Preschool Board President at President@tillamookpreschool.org if you have any leads!

The Scourge of Gas-powered Leaf Blowers

Is your quality of life enhanced by the sound of gas leaf blowers or the fumes those blowers emit?

Quiet Clean PDX (QCPDX) is a coalition of concerned Portlanders working to eliminate gas leaf blowers locally and beyond. We have over 1,800 subscribers to our monthly newsletter and you can find the organizations that endorse us—including 15 Portland neighborhood associations at www.quietcleanpdx.org.

Gas leaf blowers:

- Create high-intensity intrusive noise that disturbs neighborhood residents, passersby, and shoppers and can lead to permanent hearing loss for the operator
- Create health risks with the emissions of toxic substances that can cause cancer, heart and lung disease
- Cause air pollution with the emission of smog-forming chemicals
- Require fossil fuels (gas and oil) for operation and thereby emit carbon dioxide, which contributes to climate change.

QCPDX is hopeful that the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association will endorse our goal of transitioning to alternatives including battery-operated leaf blowers and manual tools like rakes. We hope to encourage a healthier and simpler approach to lawn and garden care that reduces the need for gas-powered equipment.

Thank you for your consideration- The Quiet Clean PDX Steering Committee

Note: The SNA will be voting at our General Meeting on January 12th about whether or not to endorse Quiet Clean PDX's mission.

Critic's Corner

Introducing a new column where we let a Sunnyside student review a book, film, local restaurant or attraction.

Sunnyside students, your article could be here! Send submissions to Hannahmwallace@gmail.com.

Correction

In a historical piece about the Sunnyside neighborhood that we published in our November issue, we referred to Dr. Perry Prettyman as "one of the first settlers" to the neighborhood. By telling the history of this area only from the perspective of white Europeans we erase the rich cultural history of Indigenous Peoples of the Multnomah, Kathlamet, Clackamas, Chinook, Tualatin Kalapuya, Molalla and many other Native American tribes who made their homes here. We apologize for the error and are taking action to implement an equity lens in our editorial process so that future publications will be more accurate and inclusive.

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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. Deadlines are the 15th of the month prior.** Many wonderful volunteer Sunnyside residents distribute the Neighborhood News.



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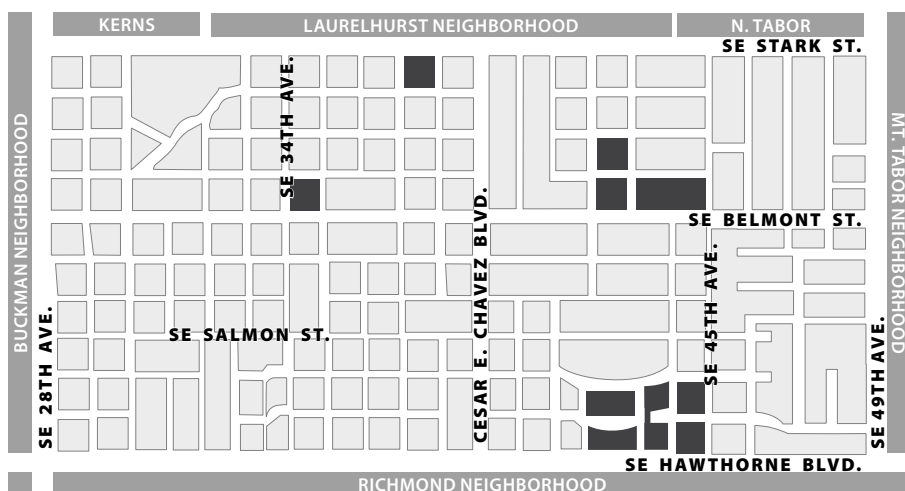
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Sunnyside Neighborhood 'Gap Map'

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