

SUNNYSIDE

Neighborhood News

November 2023

SUNNYSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

SunnysidePortland.org

board@sunnysideportland.org

News from the President

By Chris Waldmann, SNA President

Hi Sunnyside! The big news of the month concerns ongoing efforts to make SE Cesar E. Chavez Blvd. safer for all users through the neighborhood. Following the tragic death of Belmont librarian Jeannie Chavez by a drunk, reckless driver, PBOT investigators reviewed the area around SE Taylor where Diaz was killed. While they will not take any direct action at this time to address the underlying road and sidewalk design that contributed to this incident, they did determine that a step can be taken to reduce traffic-related accidents at that intersection. A PBOT engineer discovered that while only 1.7% of the vehicles entering this intersection were turning left, 25% of the accidents involved left-hand turns. To reduce this number, PBOT decided to install traffic diverters at the intersection that will prevent left-hand turns to/from Chavez at Taylor. PBOT believes that this action could have a significant effect on car crashes at this intersection. We at the SNA are not resting on this issue, nor are we satisfied with this as the sole response from PBOT. We continue to work with the city to re-envision Chavez as a street that could be safe and productive for everyone.

Our next General Meeting will be another busy one! On the agenda we will have an update from Central Precinct officers on public safety, a briefing from the Belmont Library team about the coming renovations and a presentation from Cascadia Action, who is asking the SNA to endorse other neighborhood efforts to negotiate with polluting industries, primarily in North and Northeast Portland. Hope to see you on November 9th!

SNACC Update

By Hannah Wallace, SNACC Co-Chair, SNA Vice President

The SNACC (Sunnyside Neighborhood Community Care) Committee had a productive meeting on October 5th. We discussed the need for different types of volunteer activities at the Shower Project, including organizing supplies and taking inventory. We also talked about how volunteers need to be more mindful of how our conversations impact our guests – putting them front-and-center rather than focusing on ourselves or our (comparatively privileged) lives. We also discussed the need for further trainings around Trauma Informed Care (TIC), CPR and first aid training, and a Narcan training.

We will be holding a Narcan training for all Shower Project volunteers and guests on November 12th with a harm reduction coordinator from Instituto Latino Recovery Center and our very own Josette Hodge. We also discussed the Clothing Drive and brainstormed partner agencies we could invite to be there. (See below for more info on the winter clothing drive.) The next SNACC meeting will be on December 7th at 6:30 p.m.

Winter Clothing Drive

By Hannah Wallace, SNA Vice President

For the 4th year in a row, the SNACC committee is organizing a Winter Clothing Drive for our houseless neighbors. The drive will be on Saturday, December 9th in the basement of the Sunnyside Methodist Church/The Groves on 35th and Yamhill. A crew of volunteers will be on hand to collect donations of winter clothing and

gear from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. The main event will be held from 2 – 6 p.m. that same day.

Here are some of the things we especially need (for all genders):

- Pants, jeans, and sweatpants
- Sweaters and sweatshirts
- T-shirts – short and long-sleeved
- Long underwear
- New underwear (men's and women's)
- New or lightly worn socks (wool preferred)
- Raincoats/winter coats
- Boots, tennis shoes, hiking shoes
- Tarps, tents, sleeping bags
- Warm hats, gloves, scarves, and belts

Please do not donate children's clothing or dressy/formal clothing.

We will be promoting the event to our shower guests, partner agencies, and local businesses (and on our Instagram at @sunnysideshowerproject). If you would like to help publicize the event or if your workplace wants to donate gear, clothing, or gift cards, please reach out to Diana Deumling at dianadeumling@gmail.com.

Upcoming Meetings

Check sunnysideportland.org for location details and agenda.

November

Nov 9th: 7:00-8:30 General Meeting,
8:30-9:00 Board Meeting
(No SNACC or LUTC Meetings)

December

Dec. 7th: 6:30-7:30 SNACC Meeting
Dec. 14th: 7:00-8:30 Board Meeting
(No General Meeting)
Dec. 28th: 8:00-9:00 LUTC Meeting

Cascadia Action Endorsement

Cascadia Action, a Portland-based nonprofit that advocates for clean air, reached out to the SNA to ask us to join their efforts to fight industrial pollution in Portland. They, along with a large group of neighborhood associations and other stakeholders, are fighting companies in North and Northeast Portland to install new pollution-control devices and stop new developments. Cascadia Action has asked the SNA to endorse 12 letters written by the neighborhoods most affected by the most dangerous industrial polluters in the city. Members of Cascadia Action will be giving a presentation at our November meeting and will ask the membership for an endorsement. You can read the letters at tinyurl.com/45a29dnj. For more information visit: portlandcleanair.org

Love your library? Help make it better!

By Eric Miller, SNA Secretary

The Belmont Library is one of the busiest in the country and after an upcoming renovation it will be bigger, too. Plans are underway to renovate the existing building and add an addition for a total of 15,000 square feet, more than doubling the available square footage. After the design phase, construction is expected to begin late next year with a ribbon-cutting in late 2025. But first, we need to hear from you. Library director Vailey Oehlke and the project architect Jeanie Lai will be at our General Meeting Thursday, November 9th to provide an update and hear your thoughts on the most important features for the renovated building. We hope to see you there.

Newsletter Delivery Help Needed

Want to meet your neighbors and get some steps in? Join the newsletter delivery team! Each month, about 60 dedicated volunteers deliver the neighborhood news to every household and business in Sunnyside. When a volunteer moves away or gives up their route, we add these blocks to the "Gap Map". On the back of each issue you'll see where we currently need delivery help. It's easy and it's fun. It doesn't take much time and the newsletters will be delivered to your door. Most routes cover one or two blocks and take about 20 minutes. If you're interested, please contact Diana Deumling at dianadeumling@gmail.com.

Thanks to all the volunteers who bring this newsletter to our doorsteps!



Jeremy FiveCrows, holding a Pacific lamprey.

Sunnyside Neighborhood Getting to Know Your Neighbors

*by Hannah Neuschwander,
SNA Member*

Q&A with Jeremy FiveCrows

Jeremy FiveCrows is the Communications Director for the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and an enrolled member of the Nez Perce Tribe. He moved to Sunnyside in 1999, and now lives here with his wife and two kids. He spoke to us about the history of the local tribes' fishing rights, the health of the salmon fisheries, and the importance of native peoples' "First Foods."

What do you love about Sunnyside?

Jeremy: I love that it feels like a real neighborhood – the walkability of it. We have so many independent shops. My favorite place is probably The Bagdad. I love the décor, the themed cocktails, the community feeling it has; it's such a little treasure. I also love that you can go to this big grocery store, Fred Meyer, and yet it feels more like a local store. You recognize all the staff, because they have been there for years.

You are a science communicator, helping tell stories about salmon and river science for the Columbia Intertribal Fish Commission. What do you love about that work?

Jeremy: I love telling stories. I want everyone to feel at home here, and that

feeling requires making deeper connections to this place, including emotional and spiritual connections. Tribal people have made a home here for thousands of years; part of my work is helping explain how they have done it. We can take their example of how to put down deeper roots in this place. We can all put our roots down a little deeper.

Can you talk more about the work of the Inter-Tribal Fish Commission?

Jeremy: The Commission is made up of four member tribes: the Nez Perce, Umatilla, Warm Springs, and Yakama, each with treaty fishing rights. Our broad scope is restoring watersheds, especially for the benefit of salmon, Pacific lamprey, and sturgeon. The Commission was formed in 1977 at a time when salmon were highly threatened with extinction. The tribes saw this decline and knew that their right to fish is meaningless if there is no salmon to catch. They came together to unify their voice in the management and coordination of the fishery.

Can you share more about the history of treaty rights and salmon?

Jeremy: All four tribes signed treaties with the U.S. government in 1855. Importantly, in the treaties fishing rights were "reserved"—they were not part of the negotiation, and therefore can never be taken away. The four member tribes have a specific treaty right to fish not only on their reservations, but in all their "usual and accustomed places." For example, the Nez Perce, who live primarily in Idaho, can fish

at Willamette Falls as we traditionally did. Subsequent court cases also determined that the fishing right includes the right to co-manage the fisheries in partnership with the states and federal government. Today, of all the areas the salmon are physically able to return to, most are located in lands that used to belong to these tribes but were ceded to the U.S. government when the 1855 treaties were signed. These lands are the salmon's last interior stronghold.

What is the health of salmon fisheries today?

Jeremy: At the time of treaty (1855), estimates were that between 17-30 million salmon would return upriver annually. Today those numbers have been reduced by over 90%. It's a common misconception that dams are the main cause. Even before the first dam (Bonneville) was built on the Columbia in 1938, the number had already dropped to 2 million a year due to clearcutting, gold mining, fish wheels and overharvesting. As more and more dams went in, it really kicked the salmon while they were down. One year in the late 1970s had fewer than 1 million salmon returning – across all species. But, that low point led to many things coming together to help salmon: the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, the tribal self-determination push. These all combined to bring awareness and political will to change.

But now, with climate change, we are very alarmed. In 2018/2019, the Nez Perce completed a run count in Idaho and they predict that by 2025—in just two years—77% of the spring Chinook salmon streams in Idaho will reach the quasi-extinction threshold. [A quasi-extinction threshold reflects the fact that a population may be doomed to extinction, even if there are still individuals alive, because it is so small it is unable to sustain itself.]

That's terrifying. What can be done?

Jeremy: We need to pull out all the stops. It is especially important to focus on habitat restoration covering the entire lifecycle of the salmon—from the estuary to the rivers and creeks. Salmon habitats touch every facet of life in the NW—our hydrosystem, our energy system and our agriculture. We are doing more policy work in the Columbia Basin than we used to. We just completed a Tribal Energy Vision—how to prepare to make sure that the energy transition to wind and solar isn't built on the backs of salmon. It would be a disaster to power our energy grid using the river as a reserve battery, turning the river on and off when needed.

Tribes have done really good work but the reservations are small and most of the areas salmon return to are not on reservation land. Our organization works together with local landowners, local governments, and states. We work with so many people you might think of as adversaries—power companies, ranchers, farmers, county governments. We have to find our common priorities. Most ranchers love their land, and love to see salmon in their creeks again.

How does the Fish Commission marry indigenous knowledge with Western science?

Jeremy: We can use the tools of Western science to look at salmon and the ecosystem in granular ways, such as through genetic research. For example, previously it was thought that Pacific lamprey spent 3-4 years in rivers before migrating to the ocean. Now, because of genetic testing, we know it can be a decade or more. But to learn that, we also needed traditional ecological knowledge, such as where to look for the lamprey, historical areas of abundance, etc. Coupling the two perspectives broadens our view.

How can individuals support the local salmon economy?

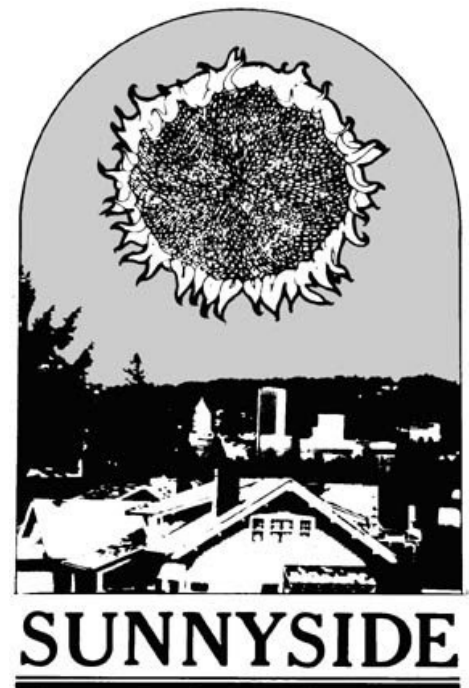
Jeremy: At various times from spring through fall, tribal fishers sell fresh salmon at many Portland farmers' markets. You can also stop at the Bridge of the Gods exit on I-84 and buy from tribes who have stands and sell fish directly.

What do salmon mean to you?

Jeremy: Tribes talk about First Foods—salmon, deer, camas roots, huckleberries. They are the foods of this place. When you eat these foods, your body becomes literally made of this place. Eating salmon from the Columbia carries on a thousands-of-years-long tradition of participating in the salmon economy. I'm not a fan of farmed salmon—it turns salmon into a crop instead of allowing us to see it as the gift it is.

Thanks!

Paul Susi, who was profiled in the Sept. issue, would like to thank readers for donating a total of \$350 to his mutual aid ID Assistance Project. It went to good use: helping approximately 15 individuals replace their birth certificates and IDs. For those of you who didn't see the Q&A, check it out on the SNA website. Paul's Venmo is @Paul-J-Susi.



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

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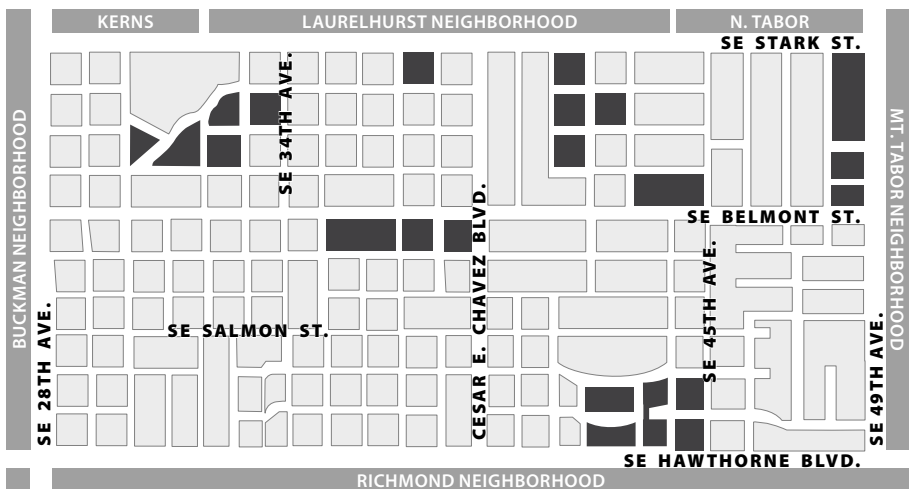
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Any opinions expressed, unless specified, are not necessarily those of the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association or its board. **Sunnyside residents are welcome to submit articles for consideration that concern neighborhood issues, by emailing newsletter@sunnysideportland.org. Deadlines are the 15th of the month prior.** Many wonderful volunteer Sunnyside residents distribute the Neighborhood News.

Sunnyside Neighborhood 'Gap Map'

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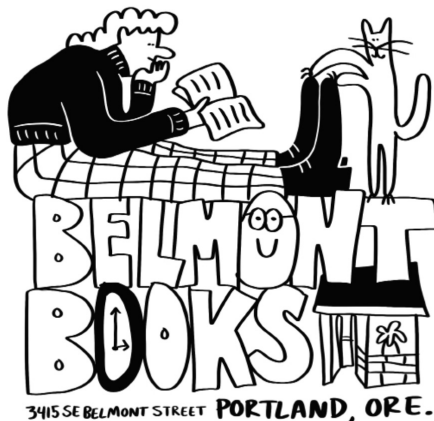
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