

SUNNYSIDE

Neighborhood News

December 2025

SUNNYSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
SunnysidePortland.org board@sunnysideportland.org

News from the President

By Chris Waldmann, SNA President

Happy Holidays Sunnyside! I hope you are finding the joy in the season with your family and friends. This is such a wonderful time of year – the streets filled with colorful lights, the children anticipating winter break and perhaps a visit from Santa, and evenings full of cheer as we come together to celebrate.

Onto the news...

At our November General Meeting, I gave a briefing on disaster preparedness and helping our neighbors in times of great need. I'm not an expert, but unfortunately, Sunnyside doesn't have an active Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) right now. Trained NET volunteers are not only involved in actual disaster response, but in helping neighbors prepare themselves by engaging with the community through meetings with groups like the SNA. If this sounds like something you might be interested in, please visit portland.gov/pbem/neighborhood-emergency-teams to learn more and to get tips to help your family when disaster strikes.

We also talked about caring for our neighbors. As of this writing, the threat of federal troops being deployed in Portland has not gone away. If federal agents come to our neighborhood, there are a number of ways that you can help protect yourself and your community.

- Talk to your neighbors so that you can know who is at risk so that you can help out.
- Carry a whistle to alert the community that something is happening.

- Take a cellphone video, from a distance.
- Know your rights so that if you encounter agents, you can protect yourself. Visit aclu.org/know-your-rights to learn more.
- Please, DO NOT ENGAGE OR INTERFERE with federal agents. You will only get yourself in trouble, rather than helping the community.

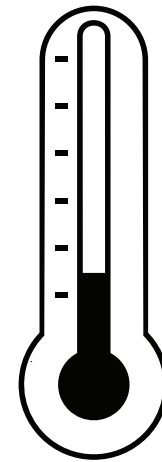
Another great way to support your neighbors through the cold winter months ahead is to participate in the Sunnyside Shower Project's Winter Gear Drive! Through December 21st, the SSP will partner with local businesses to accept donations of adult winter clothing and cold weather gear at various stores throughout Sunnyside. For a complete list of participating businesses, please visit sunnysideshowerproject.org or their Instagram, @sunnysideshowerproject.

That's it for now. We will see you in 2026 for the next General Meeting. Until then, have a wonderful holiday season. Here's to a prosperous, safe and community-filled New Year for all of us in this neighborhood, city, country, and world.

Help Support the SNA Newsletter!

Readers: We still need your help! As you read in the November newsletter, printing costs for our newsletter have increased 33% overnight. Our newsletter is entirely volunteer-produced. Fabulous local writers such as Erika Bolstad, Lydia Kiesling, Alex Frane, Mike Thelin, and Jordan Michelman have all lent their time to interviewing other Sunnyside neighbors, shining a light on the wonderful and interesting work that they do. We have a volunteer copyeditor and a volunteer

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Goal: \$2,000
(to cover annual costs)

Raised: \$430



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designer. Our volunteer Treasurer helps us stay up-to-date with our sponsorship ads. Speaking of which, this humble project would not be possible without the local businesses that sponsor an ad. Thank you!

Thank you to those who have already given! Since last month, we've received \$430 in donations. But we still have a long way to go to meet our goal. Do you like keeping up with all the projects the SNA Board is engaged in around in our neighborhood—projects such as the 37th Street Plaza, the repainting of the City Repair Sunflower on 33rd, and the Sunnyside Shower Project? If so, please consider supporting our newsletter. Even just \$20 a year would help us keep going.

Without your donations we will have to either go to every-other-month, or possibly abandon the newsletter completely.

A reminder that donations can be made via our Give Lively link: tinyurl.com/395trwzw or by mailing a check to SEUL 3534 SE Main St, Portland OR 97214, made out to The Sunnyside Neighborhood Association.

Tech Tips: An Easy Way to Turn an iPhone into a Kid Phone

By Megan Orton, Member-at-large

This is a new column that will run in every other issue. Please let us know what you think!

Hello Sunnyside! After teaching in Southeast Portland for 25 years, I founded Mindful Media in 2020 to help parents create healthy technology habits with their families. I'm also the mom of a teenager, so I know just how difficult it is to parent in the screen age. I'm happy to share a Mindful Media Tech Tip with you!

Let's talk about "starter phones"—an idea that has been getting more traction lately. A "starter phone" is like a learner's permit, a stepping stone for kids and tweens so they can have a more gradual introduction to smartphone ownership. Many of us are wishing that our kids and tweens could have a way to communicate with friends and family without the worry of handing them a device that allows them to instantly download addictive apps – gaming, social media, porn and AI companions.

There are several good "starter phone" options out there. Some of them are Gabb, Troomi and Pinwheel. However, these phones can be expensive, require difficult set-up, and are often not supported by the common cellular networks.

For families who use iPhones, there's an easy starter phone solution that isn't getting enough press. It's called Assistive Access. (Not to be confused with "Guided Access".) Originally designed to make iPhones friendlier and safer for folks with cognitive disabilities, Assistive Access offers a perfect way to set up a starter phone so that it has exactly what you want on it and nothing that you don't. Best of all, even the most tech savvy kids and tweens can't circumvent it.

On my website (mindful-media.net), go to the "Solutions" page and scroll to the bottom. Click on "Parental Controls That Actually Work" to learn how to set up Assistive Access.

Benefits of Assistive Access:

- You can pass an old iPhone on to your child, instead of having to buy a new, expensive starter phone from Gabb or Pinwheel. As long as your old iPhone runs iOS 17 or later, it has Assistive Access.
- You get to decide exactly what goes on the phone, so it grows with your child. You can start by making it a phone that just calls and texts (or just calls). When your child is older, you can add other apps as you see fit, and eventually remove Assistive Access all together.
- No confusing Parent Portal. No tricky setup. It's the easiest parental control I've ever used.
- It works with whatever cell phone carrier you have.
- Unlike starter phones like Gabb, you can try it on your own iPhone first, and see if you like it. If you don't, you haven't spent a dime.
- An iPhone using Assistive Access looks just like any other iPhone so there's usually less pushback from kids about "not fitting in" like there is with a flip phone.
- Assistive Access can be used on its own, or used along with the iPhone Parental Controls.
- You can also use Assistive Access on iPads that run iOS17 or later.

Tips:

- To make sure your child can't remove Assistive Access, set the passcode when they're not with you.
- Pick a passcode that they can't guess no matter how hard they try. I like to use the last 4 digits of my childhood best friend's phone number.
- You can buy a refurbished, inexpensive iPhone on backmarket.com. (Just make sure it runs iOS 17 or later). This is where we bought my son's first phone, which was great because he dropped it in the toilet the first week!

Have a question or a topic you'd like the next Tech Tip to cover? Email me at: megan@mindful-media.net.

News From Sunnyside Environmental School (SES)

By Sarah Centerwall

member-at-large and SES parent

As we "fall back" into shorter days and longer nights, there are many projects and activities happening at Sunnyside Environmental this December—from the SES History Teach-In to the exciting work on our new Outdoor Learning Space. Jot these unmissable events down on your calendar. They will bring you through the cold and dark with warmth and liveliness.

12/4 SES History Teach-In from 6–7:30 p.m. in the SES Auditorium

Please join the Advocacy and Organizing group for a Sunnyside Environmental History Teach-in. The event will be led by former and current staff, teachers, and students who will share the vision, evolution and importance of the school at this time. They will discuss how and why the school was founded, along with the current practices and pedagogy of today. Afterwards there will be time for questions and discussions. Have little ones at home? No worries! Childcare will be provided onsite by SES eighth graders.

12/12 4–6 p.m. Winter Craft Fair

If you are wondering where to go for your Christmas shopping this year, come to the SES Winter Craft Fair. There will be booths with crafts made by local artists, vendors, and students. By shopping at the craft fair you will be supporting both the local community and Sunnyside students. In addition to booths selling amazing handmade items, there will be a raffle from donors including Blick, One with Heart, Laughing Planet and Everett House as well as delicious baked goods to keep your tummy content while you shop.

12/16 Hunt for the Legendary Pizza Shop Musical from 6–7 p.m. in the Auditorium

K-1st Grade SES students will be performing in a musical called Hunt for the Legendary Pizza Shop. This musical is student-created alongside Sunnyside's beloved teacher/musician Mo. It is a story of animals in search of a magical pizza shop. While they search, they learn about the environment and teamwork. The musical is open to the community. There will be baked goods for sale by the SES PTSA, but admission is free.

Circle of Giving — Donations due December 9th

Each Winter, SES families participate in the Circle of Giving to ensure that everyone has what they need during the holiday season. Families in need can put in confidential requests and donors can contribute confidential donations. There are two types of donations that can be given— gift cards or cash.

- Gift cards are preferred this year for simplicity and confidentiality.
- Cash donations will help families with Portland General Electric bills.

If you are interested in giving please click on the link if you are reading the digital copy of the newsletter. If you are reading the paper copy use this link: tinyurl.com/5744jh3j or go to SES's homepage or01913224.schoolwires.net/sunnyside for more information.

Outdoor Learning Space

We have an amazing outdoor project happening at the school. Last year SES middle school students received a grant from PCEF (Portland Clean Energy Foundation) for \$10,000 to design and build an outdoor learning space. The middle school students designed a bee-themed outdoor learning space, alongside PSU architecture students and professors, and volunteer architects from City Repair. It is now being built. This year, middle school students are writing an additional PCEF grant to finish the project. This space will not only be an outdoor learning space for SES students but will also be a wonderful space for community members to gather outside of school hours. It will be a covered area with seating on both sides of the pavilion. There are design plans that include cob benches, metal work and murals. There are many opportunities to donate, volunteer, and help with this project. If you are interested in helping out, contact Tara at tbranham@pps.net.

Reader Question Answered

A reader asked if we have an eco-roof or vertical gardening at SES. The answer is yes! We have an eco-roof on the cob structure at the front of the school. The roof consists of soil, ferns, succulents and sorrel.

Have questions about SES? Email sunnysideenvironmentalnews@gmail.com and maybe I'll answer them in a future column!

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

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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.

The Sunnyside Shower Project

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www.sunnysideshowerproject.org

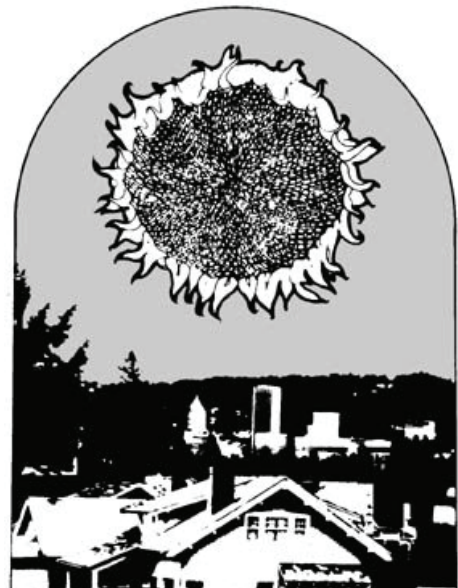
- Join a crew of 35+ fabulous volunteers
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Email Hannah at hannahwallace@gmail.com for more info!

Donate to Sunnyside Shower Project Here:



www.sunnysideshowerproject.org/donate



SUNNYSIDE

Upcoming Meetings

Location details and agendas are on Sunnysideportland.org.

December

Dec 8th: Land Use & Transportation Committee Meeting, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Dec. 10th: SNA Board Meeting, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

January

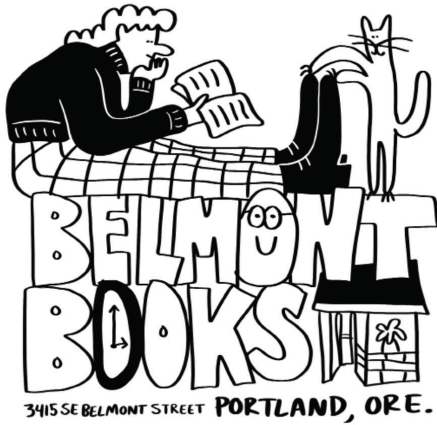
Jan 14th: General Meeting and SNA Board Meeting, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

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