

SUNNYSIDE

Neighborhood News

August 2026

SUNNYSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

SunnysidePortland.org

board@sunnysideportland.org

News from the President

By Chris Waldmann, SNA President

Hope your summer is going great, Sunnyside, and that you are enjoying getting out there to enjoy all that Oregon summer offers us—long days for hitting the trails, comfortable evenings for sitting on patios with friends, biking, and swimming with the kids. Magic.

The big news this month is the grand re-opening of the Belmont Library! After almost two years of construction, the newly renovated library will open to the public with two days of celebration on August 15th and 16th, kicking off with a ceremonial ribbon cutting at 9:30 a.m., followed by tours, musical performances, dancing, and more. Some of the highlights of the rebuild include:

- An early learning and play space for children
- New community and meeting rooms
- A teen area for engaging with technology, connection and creativity
- New art from local artists

Join us for a sneak peak of all the new features of the library at our August Board Meeting at 7 p.m. on August 12th at SE Uplift, 3534 SE Main St.

We will also be discussing a potential new apartment building at 4511 SE Hawthorne. We will hear from neighbors in the area and representatives of the developer, Killian-Pacific, about the current plans and discuss how the Board will engage with the city over neighbors' concerns about the development. Like all Board Meetings, this one is open to the public, but any resolutions that take place will be voted on only by Board members.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in August to kick off another year of making Sunnyside the best neighborhood in Portland!

The Sunnyside Yard Sale!

By Hannah Wallace, SNA Vice President

Over the years, we've gotten many requests to put on a neighborhood-wide yard sale. We're finally doing it! The date is set: Saturday, September 26th from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. We invite all Sunnyside residents—both renters and homeowners—to declutter your house, basement, and/or garage. Everything is fair game: books, clothes, old trampolines, bikes, toys, garden equipment, planting cuttings, and even furniture. Create an area in front of your driveway, your front yard, or porch and go to town!

To register, visit sunnysideportland.org/yardsale and make a tax-deductible donation of \$25. This will cover inclusion on both the digital and printed maps. There is no deadline for being part of the digital map, as that map will be continuously updated until the morning of the 26th. The deadline for the printed maps, which we'll distribute at local businesses and hand out at participating houses in the neighborhood, is September 20th. We will also be advertising the event in Ever Out, the Southeast Examiner, and of course on our social media.

Sunnyside Environmental School will be doing its own school-wide yard sale the same day! So tell your family and friends. The Sunnyside Yard Sale will be the talk of the town.

Upcoming SNA Meetings

Visit Sunnysideportland.org for location details and agendas

August

NET: Aug. 4th, 7-8 p.m.

Board: Aug. 12th, 7-8:30 p.m.

(no General Meeting until September)

LUTC: Aug. 19th, 7-8 p.m.

September

General: Sept. 9th, 7-8:30 p.m.

Board: Sept. 9th, 8:30-9 p.m.

LUTC: Sept. 16th, 7-8 p.m.

Getting to Know Your Neighbors

By Alex Frane, SNA Member at Large

A Q&A with Jerry Fechter at Horse Brass Pub.

In November this year, the Horse Brass Pub will turn 50, though the bar celebrated a bit early this year. For the past half-century, the storied taphouse has been home to local brewers, English expats, and neighborhood residents alike. It fills nightly with all ages of clientele looking to throw darts, knock back a few (real, imperial, 20-ounce) pints, and dig into some of the best fish and chips in Portland. And although he passed away in early 2011, you can still feel the presence of its famed publican Don Younger, the patron saint of Oregon's craft brew scene, whose 86th birthday the Horse Brass celebrated in mid-July with a week of collaboration beers and live music. Its current owner, former Lompoc brewer and owner Jerry Fechter, carries the spirit forward today.



Jerry Fechter, owner of the Horse Brass Pub

Alex Frane: How did you first meet Don?

Jerry Fechter: I met Don Younger when [the western] side of the Horse Brass opened in '94. A friend had said, "Hey, you need to come check out this bar. They have all these craft beers." I came over five or six times over the next few years. I don't really remember meeting Don, and I don't really remember talking to him very often, but in 1999 I was trying to buy Lompoc Brewing, where I was the brewer. A guy who worked at Steinbart's and Belmont Station said, "Don Younger might be into partnering up with you. He's helped so many brewers."

So he called up Don and we met and talked for about an hour or two. A couple of days later he came over to Lompoc at 8 in the morning. 10 hours later we had the framework of a deal. It took us about another month or so to get our money together and figure out what we were doing. Then we bought it in early 2000 and opened the doors around May.

AF: When did you join up with the Horse Brass?

JF: Over the next 11 years, the partnership was obviously good and Lompoc was doing well. Don must have seen something in me he liked and his longtime bookkeeper, Joellen Piluso, and I got along. When Don passed away 2011, he left an option for myself and Joellen to each buy half of the pub. I know he wanted to do something good for Joellen; she's been here since day one.

AF: So did you start working here in 2011?

JF: No, it was business as usual, Joellen kept running it. Then slowly, over time, as I started selling off parts of Lompoc, I would come over to do maintenance projects, either build new stuff or fix stuff. When we closed Lompoc Brewing in 2019, that's when we had the conversation: We'll

work together for a year or two and then we'll phase Joellen out [for her retirement]. COVID bumped it back. I bought her out a couple of years ago and she retired three years ago. She still comes in about once or twice a month. I still have her reconcile the checkbook and she's a good sounding board.

AF: What do you think makes the Horse Brass special compared to the many tap houses and brew pubs that have opened up in the last 50 years?

JF: It's just a neat pub. There's a lot of history here, a lot of craft beer history. Don was a total pioneer. Not only on the craft side, but he brought in all the imports. He brought in Newcastle, he brought in Watneys, he brought in Bass and Guinness. As an English pub, that was an easy avenue for him. When Widmer, Deschutes, Bridgeport, Pike, and Bert Grant's, came on the scene, their first taps in Portland were at the Horse Brass. That blossomed over the years. After they opened this side over here [gesturing to the western half of the bar], a lot of the brewers all met here every Friday at 4 and they called it Poets. It was just a great place to come and meet brewers.

AF: How do you think the bar has evolved over the past 50 years?

JF: I think in a lot of ways we've evolved, but in a lot of ways we haven't done anything. It's always been a neighborhood bar and some of the regulars have been coming in here for 50 years. There are three things in life: your home life, your work life, and then you either have a hobby or you have a place to go where you socialize. Don was a big believer in the Third Place and that's what he always tried to create. One of the original phrases that the Horse Brass was built on was "Where companionship is the order of the day." It's a very English phrase, but it holds true. You come to the bar to socialize and have a beer and talk to other folks who want to socialize and have a beer, and you get to know people. There's good food and there's good conversation to be had and that's what people are looking for. So that's all we're trying to do. Don's big quote was, "It's not about the beer. It's about the beer." You know, how the beer gets there, who made the beer, what the beer does to people, how it makes them feel.

AF: Do you still see that kind of community here at the Brass?

JF: 100 percent. 100 percent. We see a lot of newer, younger folks coming in, hanging

out. They bring other folk or meet other brewers here. We're still doing something right.

Tech Tips: Summer boredom and screen time

By Megan Orton, SNA Member at Large

Summer vacation is the season of sprinklers and popsicles and sleeping in. It's also the season when parents often have the most difficulty managing screen time. Trying to get things done while also keeping the kids entertained all day can be really frustrating. It's so easy for screens to become the default solution because they zap summer boredom better than any other invention. Entertained kids = parents getting things done.

As a GenXer raised by Boomer parents in the '80s, I can't help but notice a huge cultural shift around kid's boredom in the last 40 years. Boomer parents trusted that we had the skills to deal with our boredom and didn't consider it their problem to solve. Those of us who were kids in the '80s had hours and hours to develop these skills—boring car rides, a sibling's boring T-ball game, boring adult conversations, and hundreds of other boring things were part of every day living because Silicon Valley hadn't yet invented the Instant Boredom Zapper.

Things had changed by the time I was raising my son in the 2010s. Boredom was now considered a parenting failure. A bored kid meant you were doing something wrong. I felt this particularly acutely as the parent of an only child.

Then, I was given the best parenting advice I've ever gotten. When my son was young, I was a violin teacher, surrounded by my students and their wise parents. Three of my students, all siblings, were remarkable because they were always engaged in creative and imaginative pastimes. I asked their mom what her secret was and her answer changed my son's childhood. "Boredom!" she said. "Kids do the most incredible things when they get fully, truly bored. But you have to be willing to let them get REALLY bored. If they're not doing something amazing, they're not bored enough yet."

I'd heard this idea before of course, but hadn't really trusted it enough to try it with my own child. But when I stopped handing over a screen to solve boredom, when I let my son get REALLY bored, he started doing amazing things. He invented board

games and wrote long stories in blank notebooks. He started rollerblading and launching dry ice rockets. During Covid, he built incredible physics contraptions with paper towel holders, marbles, string and dominos that took up his entire bedroom. The boredom I had dreaded so much turned out to be the secret sauce to a childhood full of creativity, imagination and motivation.

Seeing this happen really shifted my thinking. Perhaps our kids' boredom isn't a miserable state we should avoid at all costs, but an incredibly powerful motivator we've culturally forgotten about. It's undeniable that technology has added amazing things to our lives. But, if boredom is actually the catalyst for motivation then what are we taking away from our kids when they have constant access to Instant Boredom Zappers?

These days I work with families to help them manage screen time and I see the same thing. Motivation, creativity, and imagination show up after the boredom. Real 1980s level boredom. What we had in the '80s was a ready list of things we loved to do when we were bored, and it was always front of mind because we had to use it all the time. This mental list rarely gets made by kids today, and the motivation to explore off-screen pastimes gets weaker when they're always grabbing a Boredom Zapper.

Changing how we deal with boredom in our families can be challenging in the beginning, especially if kids have gotten very used to being entertained by a screen. One of the best ways to help kids learn to manage boredom is to plan ahead. Sit down with your kids and help them think of at least ten screen-free things they enjoy. Write them down on a Boredom List and hang it on the fridge. This way, whenever someone complains of boredom and asks for a screen, you have an easy answer. "Go check out your Boredom List—it has all kinds of great ideas for you!"

All of our kids can develop the boredom skills we had in the '80s, it just takes practice. It won't happen in a single day, or a week, but it will happen in less than a month. We just have to trust it, like our parents and grandparents did.

Summer is a great time to experiment with changing how you think about boredom in your family. I've created two handouts to make it easier for your kids to create their boredom lists. Go to the Printouts page under "Resources" on my website mindful-media.net and look for Your Bag Of Tricks

for Boredom, and 50 Things For Kids To Do. In the wise words of a Southeast Portland mom, "If they're not doing something amazing, they're not bored enough yet." Let's make this the summer we remember that boredom is a motivator, not a misery!

News From Sunnyside Environmental School

By Sarah Centerwall, SES parent

SES teachers and staff work at Sunnyside because they believe in the empowerment of place-based learning, safeguarding the environment, and social justice. During the summer, many of them are out in the world—learning, volunteering, fighting for causes, and building their knowledge and skills. In this issue as well as next month we spotlight some of the things they do when they're on summer break.

Tara Branham, SES Middle School math teacher spends her summers volunteering in Maui as the volunteer coordinator for the Hawai'i Wildlife Fund's sea turtle nesting project. This organization monitors beaches for nesting activity and then patrols the beaches once nesting begins to ensure the turtles are safe and can hatch in peace. She also pitches in on beach clean ups and marine debris education for SHARKastics. If that wasn't enough she also volunteers at Maui Nui Seabird Recovery Project where she helps monitor the ground-nesting Wedge-tail Shearwater burrows. SES alumni often join her to volunteer or intern.

SES teachers' dedication to the environment, to the topics they teach, and to their students is unsurmounted.

Upcoming Important Dates:

- 8/20–8/25 Teachers are back on campus
- 8/26 First day of school for students

Please remember:

- Once school is back in session the park will be closed to the public during school hours
- Keep your dog on leash
- Slow your roll when driving near the school.

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

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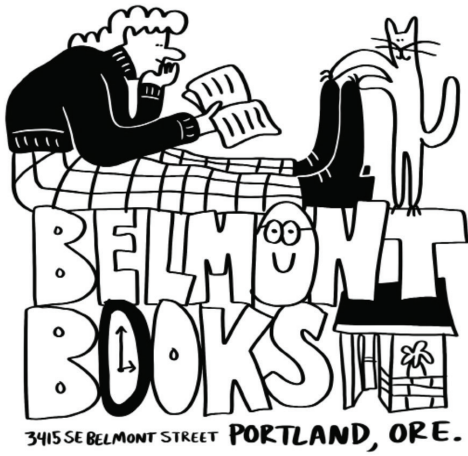
Any opinions expressed, unless specified, are not necessarily those of the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association or its board. **Sunnyside residents are welcome to submit articles for consideration that concern neighborhood issues, by emailing newsletter@sunnysideportland.org. Deadlines are the 15th of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



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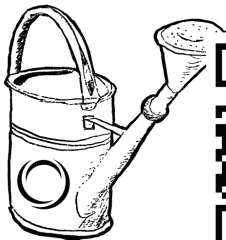


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