



Neighborhood News Richmond

May 2009

the official publication of the Richmond Neighborhood Association

www.southeastuplift.org/neighborhood/richmond

Richmond Neighborhood Association meets the 2nd Monday of every month except Dec and Jan, 7pm at Richmond Elementary School, 2276 SE 41st Ave.

CALENDAR

Sewallcrest Park Off-Leash Hours

April 1 to July 14

Monday to Friday

6am to 9am and 7pm to midnight

Saturday:

6am to 8am and 7pm to midnight

Sunday:

6am to midnight

For more information, contact

503/832-DOGS or visit

www.portlandonline.com/parks

Please note: The off-leash area is at the SOUTH end of the park.

Saturday and Sunday,

May 16 and 17, 11am to 5pm

Fourth Annual Mt. Tabor Art Walk

Visit 40 artists in the Mt. Tabor neighborhood as they welcome the public to their homes and studios. This free event features quality paintings, photography, jewelry, sculpture, pottery, textiles and more at 30 marked sites within convenient walking distances.

You will be able to meet the artists, purchase artwork, and enjoy a late-spring stroll through the lovely Mt. Tabor neighborhood. Maps will be available at each site and can also be downloaded from the Mt. Tabor Art Walk website.

Preview the art and find area maps at www.mttaborartwalk.com.

The Richmond Neighborhood Association newsletter is published quarterly. Submission deadline for Aug '09 issue is June 16.

RICHMOND CLEANUP!

Saturday, May 30, 9am to 1pm

No Earlybirds, please.

Central Christian Church

1844 SE 39th Avenue,

Fees \$10 - \$25.

Collecting: bulky waste, yard debris, metal, wood, plastics, media mix & Styrofoam.

Also: computer monitors and accessories, televisions, appliances*, electronics, books/magazines, household items, carpet pad, bicycles, and reusable remodeling materials.

Plastics include nursery pots, large toys, and furniture made out of rigid plastic.

Media Mix includes CD's, DVD's, audio/visual tapes.

* NO microwave ovens

PLEASE NO HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, PAINT, SOD OR CONCRETE.

Loose construction debris must be bagged or in bins.

Nothing to dump? Check out the U-Price-It Sale (you set the price) on many great items including plants.

Volunteers and pickup trucks are needed for three-hour shifts. Contact Colin Cigarran at 971/221-2702 or colincigarran@yahoo.com.

Free pickup services for senior or disabled neighbors, call Sarah at 503/232-8942 by May 23.

SUNDAY PARKWAYS

by Janis McDonald

In June of 2008, the City of Portland held the first Sunday Parkways along six miles of streets in North Portland connecting four beautiful parks. The event was a huge success with 15,000 participants enjoying a traffic free route to walk, bike, run, and roll and enjoy city sponsored activities in neighborhood parks. Volunteers. When the day was done, people wanted more!

The City of Portland is in the planning stages for more Sunday Parkways events, with one this year in Southeast Portland. The dates for Sunday Parkways events are: June 21 in North Portland; July 19 in Northeast Portland; and August 16 in Southeast Portland.

The Southeast event will be from 9am to 4pm and include a five mile route that connects Laurelhurst Park and Sunnyside Park with an additional three mile loop that goes to the top of Mt. Tabor Park. The route will cross Hawthorne and Division at SE 34th and 41st. Hawthorne and Division will remain open for auto traffic.

The Sunday Parkway route will be open for people to walk, bike, run and roll, and the parks will host entertainment, activities and food.

The City is looking for sponsorships, fun activities, food cart vendors, entertainment, and volunteers.

For more information or to share your ideas, please contact Janis McDonald at janis.mcdonald@pdxtrans.org. To register as a volunteer or to view the fun captured by the Streetfilms go to: www.GettingAroundPortland.org and click on Sunday Parkways.



Recycling Beyond the Curb

Our Drop Off Centers Are Ready For Your Recyclables!

We Recycle:
Paper, Glass, Plastics, Metals, Electronics and more!

In SE Portland: 4629 SE 17th Ave
Approx. 2 blocks south of Holgate

Visit our website at www.farwestfibers.com
Or call us (503-238-1640) for more information and locations

Recycling Information and Community Board On Site
(see attendants for details)



Far West Fibers

LAND USE

by Doug Klotz

The most significant land use news is the proposed new mixed-use building by UD+P Development for the site at 3812 and 3816 SE Division. UD+P principal Eric Cress said the company plans to relocate the existing blue foursquare house at the SE corner of 38th and Division, originally occupied by painter Peter Sneve and his family, rotate it to face west and slide it down 38th to the south edge of the lot.

The smaller house at 3816 would be removed. The developers held an open house for immediate neighbors in January, and brought their plans to the Richmond Neighborhood Association at the February 2009 meeting. The building will be four stories tall, with retail on the ground floor, and 23 apartments above, with wood siding used on the upper stories. There will be a recess in the front of the building about 36 feet long to form a small plaza and to preserve the tree at the northeast corner of the 3812 house.

The rear facade of the building will be 24 feet from the south lot line, allowing a second "plaza" at the rear, abutting the Ivon Street Community Garden. Because of the decision to save the Peter Sneve House, there was no room to add parking to the site and have the project "pencil out".

To allow for the small plaza in front, UD+P requested in the February meeting an

adjustment to the provision in the Division Street Main Street Overlay requirements that buildings occupy 100 percent of the street frontage along Division. In the ensuing discussion, neighbors stated a concern about the lack of on-site parking for the project and the impact on nearby streets. Doug Klotz explained that the city's Zoning Code does not require parking for any building within 500 feet of a Transit Street like Division and 39th. The RNA voted to support the adjustment request.

At the March 2009 RNA meeting, UD+P reported on their discussions with a group of neighbors, which primarily concerned parking issues. Although the site will have no on-site parking, UD+P staff have talked to owners of several nearby parking lots about leasing spaces for their residents.

The developers also described their request for two more minor adjustments, one for a smaller loading zone (a requirement for residential buildings this size despite the lack of parking), and one for a 16 inch reduction in the eave clearance at the south side of the relocated house.

There was discussion of adding these to the board's endorsement letter to the city. Some board members, echoing public comments, spoke for adding a comment about the neighbors' concern regarding the lack of on-site parking. The Board voted to support the adjustments but not comment on the parking issue. Three board members voiced their support for the city policy that does not

require parking at developments along Transit Streets, while another board member read from the Richmond Plan, adopted as part of the City's Comprehensive Plan, which states policies to "retain existing parking" and "add additional parking to meet specific parking needs."

The UD+P Development at 3103 SE Division, a mixed use remodel of the old Appliance Parts building which will add two more stories to accommodate apartments, is proceeding with permitting. Construction should start soon. This project will include some on-site parking.

The property owners at 3311 SE Sherman requested adjustments for additions previously made to their property. The city approved this after-the-fact request, which was appealed by a neighbor. At a January RNA Land Use meeting, the RNA voted to take no action concerning appealing the decision. The city's Adjustment Committee voted to deny the appeal and affirm the city's staff decision.

Proposed houses at 2208 SE 48th were approved by the city planner, but have not started construction.

TO OUR NEIGHBORS

by Jordan Lanz

We are a neighborhood of pedestrians: seniors, parents with strollers, young children learning to bike, and people walking their dogs. All of us use our sidewalks on a daily basis. It can be a challenging stroll when there are overgrown bushes, low hanging

trees, unruly hedges, garden debris, garbage and recycling bins, and even furniture blocking the sidewalk.

A reminder to homeowners, renters, and landlords: sidewalks are a public right-of-way and should be kept clear of any obstructions. Spring is a good time to cut back overgrown bushes, overhanging trees (7-1/2 foot clearance above sidewalk), garden plantings, and hedges that obstruct the sidewalk.

Everyone benefits from keeping our sidewalks safe.

NEW SEASONS

On May 19, The Oregonian reported that New Seasons' plans to open a new store at the former Daily Grind site have been delayed due to unanticipated environmental issues, presumably relating to a former dry cleaner at the location. At this point, the new store is expected to open early 2010. Previously, neighbors voiced concerns that there needs to be more than the 13 parking spaces provided for in the original plans.

SEWALLCREST PARK

by Allen Field

Pesticide Free Park:

Sewallcrest is one of Portland's "Pesticide Free" parks. The City has partnered with Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides, Willamette RiverKeepers and other groups to develop alternatives to the use of pesticides and herbicides in parks.

Work parties: 1st Sunday of every month, 10am - noon. Join volunteers to help weed and mulch the park.

COMMUNITY PHONE NUMBERS

by Jordan Lanz

Neighbors may find these phone numbers helpful for addressing a variety of problems.

Street Lights: 503/823-5216

If you notice a street light out on your street, and if several neighbors call, the City will likely respond more quickly to fix it.

Bikeway Network: 503/823-2925

Report minor maintenance needs, request maps, and offer suggestions about the bikeway network.

Street Sweeping: 503/823-1740

Requests for sweeping and urgent minor maintenance to the bike network.

Traffic Solutions: 503/823-7233

For traffic investigations, to report operational problems (such as unsafe intersections), to offer solutions to traffic problems, and request traffic safety improvements to bike lanes.

Pothole Repairs: 503/823-2867

Abandoned Vehicles: 503/823-7309

Call regarding vehicles left in the street without current tags.

Grocery Carts: 888/552-2787

Have grocery carts picked up from your neighborhood for major store chains.

Graffiti: Report online at www.portlandonline.com, Graffiti Abatement Program.

Neighborhood Response Police Officer, Steve Mirau: 503/823-1274

DIVISION STREET PLAN UPDATE

continued from page 4, column 4

and construction schedules and BES will be on hand to answer questions at upcoming CWG and Community Meetings.

There is a small case study going on around the Urban Development Partners multiuse project scheduled for 38th and Division. The goal of the study is to try and learn from the relationships between the Division Street Plan, place, neighborhood association, business association and local neighbors. Insights gained from the process and the design may help inform some of the work to come along the Division Street.

We are continuing to be strong advocates with PBOT and other agency stakeholders to ensure that the next phase of the project will embody the collaborative approach we have been modeling since the start of this vision seven years ago.

We have been promised by PBOT that regular updates and communications will be coming from PBOT on this project. In the meantime, while we look forward to that happening, after several months of delays, we want to pick up responsibility for providing this update so we can all have a better sense of what is going on and how you can get involved or provide input. For more information, contact Charles Kingsley at chazkingsley@hotmail.com or Linda Nettekoven at linda@lnettekoven.com

TABOR TO THE RIVER PROJECT

by Rhett Drennan

The City of Portland is working with neighbors in the Brooklyn Creek Basin on a long-term program that will bring hundreds of sewer and stormwater management improvements to an area extending from the Willamette River to Mt. Tabor between SE Hawthorne and SE Powell boulevards.

The TABOR to the RIVER program combines green stormwater management techniques with sewer repairs and improvements to stop basement flooding, manage stormwater more naturally, and restore watershed health.

One of the first projects in the TABOR to the RIVER program will be in the Richmond Neighborhood, between Hawthorne to Harrison, and 42nd to 47th. The project will include sewer pipe improvements and construction of 42 green street facilities (see map). Green streets are vegetated curb extensions or streetside planters that collect stormwater runoff and allow it to soak into the ground as soil and plants filter pollutants.

Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) has been working with adjacent property owners on the exact placement of the green street facilities and on the types of vegetation that will be planted in them. This collaborative effort has helped balance community needs and the city's goals for these projects.

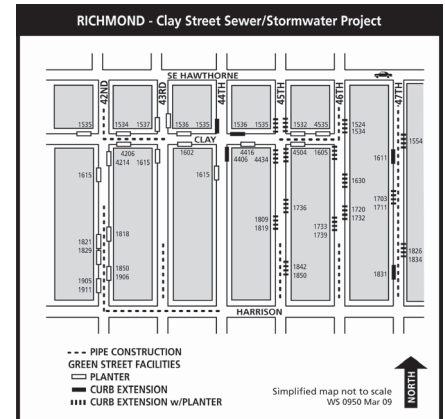
Construction of the Richmond Neighborhood projects is scheduled to begin around the first of August 2009. The work will cause occasional detours and street closures. BES will notify neighbors well in advance of any traffic disruptions. It will also schedule a public meeting this summer for neighbors to meet staff and the contractor and learn more about the construction schedule.

During construction neighbors can expect:

- The parking lane next to work sites will be closed during construction and not available to vehicles.
- There will be occasional road closures. Please obey flaggers.
- Normal lanes will be restored after work hours.
- Work may be done in phases with periods of inactivity between phases.
- There will be access to all properties during work hours.

For more information on this project, contact Rhett Drennan at 503/823-6006 or rhettad@bes.ci.portland.or.us.

More information about the TABOR to the RIVER program is available at www.portlandonline.com/bes/tabortoriver.



NEXT MEETING TIME

Monday May 11 at 7pm,
Richmond Elementary
School Library, 2276 SE 41st Ave.

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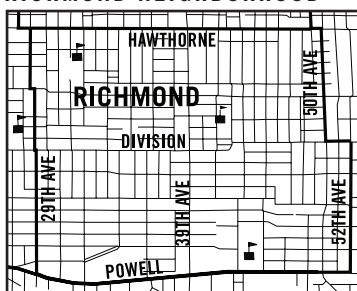
SOUTHEAST UPLIFT NEIGHBORHOOD

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Any opinions expressed in the Richmond Neighborhood News are not necessarily those of the Richmond Neighborhood Association or its board. Richmond residents are welcome to submit articles for consideration that concern neighborhood issues. E-mail Lee Knightly, editor, at RNAnewsletter@gmail.com.

Help distributing the newsletter is always welcome: call Derek at 503/233-3181.

RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD



Is this box highlighted? If so, your block needs someone to deliver the Richmond News. Call Derek at 503/233-3181 or email derekcovey@kw.com.

Division Street Plan Update

by Charles Kingsley and Linda Nettekoven

We are writing to provide updates on what is happening with the next phase of the Division Street Plan implementation. There has been a lot of work going on behind the scenes of this ongoing project:

7 Corners design project details and report are being completed by Stuart Emmons and the Planning Bureau and should be available soon for review.

While there are limitations on the design for the Ladd Avenue corner because of historic preservation issues and other concerns, there are some great ideas that have been captured in the summary and will help inform the design of the overall street as well as 7 Corners.

Proposals are currently being reviewed from design firms for the Division Streetscape and Reconstruction Project. The winning firm will oversee the design and citizen involvement portions of the project. By the time this article went to press, the consultant(s) should have been in place and ready for the first Citizens Advisory Group meetings.

A Citizens Working Group (CWG) and Technical Advisory Group are currently being put together with Portland Bureau of

Transportation (PBOT). Membership on these groups should have been confirmed in March with the first of monthly meetings beginning a few weeks later. This will be the group that oversees the design and talks through the pro-time lane decision, et cetera. Anyone is welcome to come to these meetings while remembering that committee members are the only ones who vote.

Pro-time lanes and other roadway issues are being studied by Kittleson traffic engineers. They have concluded the first part of their study, which indicates traffic flows are down a bit. Their report on existing conditions will lay the groundwork for all future discussions on roadwork and streetscape.

Funding for the project continues to evolve. According to PBOT the combined funding sources for the project (General Transportation Revenue

and the 2004 MTIP award) total \$5.8 million. Paving estimates (as of the end of 2008) total \$8.2 million. Costs for the streetscape will be established once the conceptual streetscape design has been identified. Total budget is projected at \$9 million.

We did not get the additional funds requested through Metro so that leaves a deficit. However, some of the material costs for this project have gone down recently with the overall economic slump. Since cost escalation has been one of the stumbling blocks to moving this project forward in a timely fashion, we are hopeful that costs will remain low.

The other good news is there is a chance that we can coordinate some of the work to happen on Division with the Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) TABOR to the RIVER (Taggart D) project. BES and transportation are working to align their design
continued on pg. 3, column 2



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