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Our Community in Action

Celebrate Sabin's past, present

Longtime resident shares Sabin memories

Mary Murphy thinks she has lived in Sabin longer than any other resident. She could be right. Murphy moved to the 4000 block of Northeast 19th Avenue in 1943 when she was just 5 months old. That's when Thomas and Mary Murphy adopted her and brought her home to live with them. Except for about 12 years, Murphy has lived in the house ever since, and that's been almost 60 years.

"My property taxes this past year were exactly the same amount — \$4,500 — that my parents paid for this house in 1936," Murphy points out. "This house was brand new then, and it took my parents 20 years to pay it off."

Mary Murphy is among several longtime
Continued on page 2



Mary Murphy still lives in the Sabin home her parents bought in 1936. She holds a 1937 photo of her father, Thomas Murphy, taken during lunch at a downtown Portland hotel as he sat across the table from First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. She was in town while her husband, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, was at Mount Hood to dedicate Timberline Lodge. Behind Murphy are infant clothes she made for Oregon Health & Science University's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Clay Veka

Hi Sabin Neighbors,

I am excited to invite you to our May general meeting, which we're calling "Celebrating Sabin — Past and Present." This special event will be on Monday, May 12, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Sabin School Auditorium, and it looks to be one of our most interesting meetings ever.

For me, one of the highlights will be a presentation by some longtime Sabin residents who will share personal experiences from periods in our neighborhood's history. What a great way to connect with neighbors and better understand the community fabric that binds us together! In addition, we'll show a short film clip that captures some history of inner Northeast Portland and we'll share a customized Sabin slideshow that includes photos past and present.

Our meeting will conclude with the launch of the Sabin Scavenger Hunt. We hope you'll take home several cards with Sabin-specific questions on them and spend the next weeks or months exploring our community in search of the answers. I'm particularly excited about doing this with my kids.

In addition to our "Celebrating Sabin" program, we plan to hold elections for Sabin Community Association Board of Directors positions. The board is looking for additional members who are interested in helping to guide the SCA as we deal with many important issues, such as increasing affordable housing, improving bee-friendly habitat and creating safe and interesting

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2014 SCA MEETING SCHEDULE

Board meetings are open to all and are held from 7-9 p.m. on the second Monday of the month (except in July, August and December) at Whole Foods' upstairs conference room, Northeast 15th and Fremont.

April 14
May 12
June 9

EVENTS CALENDAR

WWW.SABINPDX.ORG
FOR SELECT INFORMATION ON
SABIN EVENTS

Sabin School Run for the Arts
April 10

"Music with Mr. Hoo"

Join this interactive musical program for families with children in preschool through 5th grade.

April 19, 10:30-11:15 a.m.
Albina Library, 3605 N.E. 15th Ave.

Work & Learn Party

April 27, 2-4 p.m.
Sabin Community Orchard, Northeast
Mason between 18th and 19th avenues

Sabin Community Association



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SABIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2014

— Mary Murphy shares Sabin memories

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Sabin residents who may share their stories at SCA's general meeting in May.

Thomas Murphy was a personnel administrator for the Kaiser Vancouver Shipyards when he and his wife moved into their new home. One of Murphy's earliest memories is watching her father, who had rented a truck, bring home enough birch trees for each neighbor on their block to plant two trees in front of their home.

"I was about two years old, and those birch trees were out there for about 40 years before they all died at once," she adds. "This was a close-knit neighborhood."

According to Murphy, the founder of Physicians & Surgeons Hospital (now closed) used to live across the street, and the current dean of Lewis & Clark Law School, Robert Klonoff, grew up in the home next door to hers.

Among Murphy's most vivid memories is riding with her dad in the family's new '48 Hudson to see what was left of Vanport, a couple of weeks after Columbia River floodwaters destroyed the city on May 30, 1948. That area is now the site of

Delta Park and the Portland International Raceway. But in 1948, it was home to about 18,500 residents — a mix of people who had worked at the Kaiser Shipyards during World War II and returning war veterans. They all were displaced.

Murphy still remembers the name of her Sabin School kindergarten teacher, as well as giving headaches to several nuns who taught her at The Madeleine School in Irvington. During her four years at St. Mary's High School in downtown Portland, Murphy had to climb the hill north of her house to get to the bus stop on Prescott Street.

"Back in the old days, there were no concrete steps like now," she explains. "It was either a grassy, muddy mess or a dirt hill, and we had to climb it in our uniforms and try not to get them dirty."

Murphy earned her Licensed Practical Nursing certificate from Portland Community College, then earned a certificate in general accounting from Western Business College. She worked in accounting for two firms before retiring, and she took care of her elderly cousin, a missionary priest, in her home, which she inherited from her parents.

Today, Murphy spends her days knitting, crocheting and sewing seven-piece layette sets for tiny babies at Oregon Health & Sciences University's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Three of her four bedrooms are filled with fabrics and supplies devoted to creating baby clothes — a labor of love for which she has gladly volunteered countless hours over the past four years.

— Susan Goracke



This newsletter is produced with support from Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods and Portland's Office of Neighborhood Involvement.

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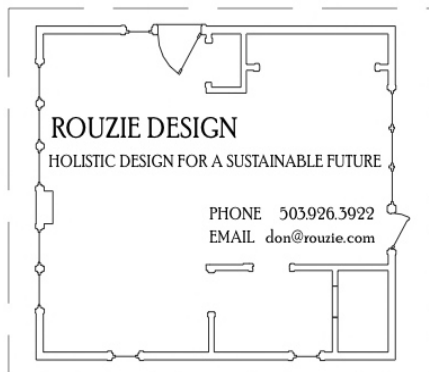
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Sabin Bike Mitts business taking off

While in Shanghai, China, for three months as part of an “entrepreneurship” class last year, Lauren Gross was looking for a product idea she could turn into a start-up business.

“There, everybody rides mopeds, and they use these leather hand-coverings with sheepskin inside to keep their hands warm. They’re attached to the handlebars,” explains Gross, who bought a pair to bring home to Portland.

Gross figured she could improve on the Chinese version by making mitts suitable for Portland’s rainy weather. Because she’s committed to repurposing and not wasting anything, Gross purchased scraps of high-tech rain-gear material from a local manufacturer to cover the outside, then used fleece scraps to line the inside of her mitts. She also offers beeswax-treated canvas mitts as a more natural alternative.

“I don’t have a car, so I ride my bike everywhere here,” she adds. “These are the only things that have kept me warm and dry in the winter. What I love about them is, I don’t have to wear gloves.”

People began noticing Gross’s Bike Mitts as she rode around town and asked her about them. She estimates she’s sold



Sabin resident Lauren Gross demonstrates Bike Mitts, which she makes and sells. The waterproof, warm mittens are attached to a bicycle’s handlebars, allowing riders to operate brakes and gears underneath.

about 35 so far, and is beginning to get more traction on her website, www.bikemitts.com. Adult-sized technical rain-gear mitts cost \$55 and waxed canvas mitts cost \$65. Child-size mitts with a dinosaur design cost \$45.

“I want people’s hands to be warm and dry while biking,” she adds

— Susan Goracke

— Celebrate Sabin at May general meeting

Continued from page 1

spaces in our public right-of-way. If you are interested in learning more about the SCA board of directors, please contact me. I would really enjoy sharing opportunities and hearing about your interests. You can reach me at clayveka@gmail.com or 503-961-3702.

Also, please consider joining us on Monday, April 14, for the first 30 minutes — from 7 to 7:30 p.m. — of our board

meeting. We meet in the second-floor conference room at Whole Foods Fremont. This will be an excellent opportunity for you to learn more about the SCA board and whether you could see yourself becoming a member. Let me know if you would like to join us.

I hope to see you at the May 12 “Celebrating Sabin - Past and Present” general meeting. I think it’s one you don’t want to miss!

— Clay Veka

SABIN BRIEFS

Celebrate Earth Day at the Sabin Orchard

As flowers make their springtime appearance, so do the bees. On Sunday, April 27, from 2 to 4 p.m., we’ll hold our April Work and Learn Party at the Sabin Community Orchard and learn about these amazing pollinators.

Urban beekeeper Tim Wessels and pollination biologist Mace Vaughn from the Xerces Society will teach us about honeybees and native pollinators such as the Sabin tickle bees and how pesticides are affecting them. We’ll learn how to support pollinators and look at examples in the Sabin Orchard.

Then we’ll tackle a few springtime tasks. If weather permits, we’ll visit the tickle bees at the Sabin School field afterward. All ages are welcome. The Sabin Community Orchard is on Northeast Mason Street between 18th and 19th avenues. RSVP to michael@portlandfruit.org.

— Rachel Lee

Sabin School plans activities

Sabin School will hold its annual Run for the Arts on Thursday, April 10, to help fund arts programming at the school. Also, the Sabin School Science Fair has been rescheduled for Thursday, April 24.

The Sabin School Foundation has created the Grandparents and Special Friends Giving Campaign so people other than parents can support Sabin School. Money donated will allow the school to hire more teachers, reducing class sizes and providing extra support for students. For more information, contact one of the Sabin School Foundation Co-chairs, Tara Russell or Michelle Ganow-Jones, at sabinfoundation@gmail.com.

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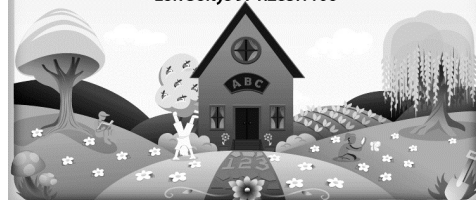
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Spring Clean-Up scheduled May 31

Sabin Community Association will hold its annual Betty Walker Spring Clean-Up, SCA's number-one fundraiser, on Saturday, May 31, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Maranatha Church's west parking lot on 12th Avenue between Skidmore and Mason streets.

This year's Clean-Up will include an increased reuse component, thanks to the addition of Lindsey Maser and Lauren Gross to the planning committee, says Coordinator Don Rouzie, who has headed the event in past years.

"Lindsey is a Sabin newsletter deliverer and works in sustainability and reuse for the city of Portland," adds Rouzie, a local architect. Gross helped found Repair PDX, a volunteer group that helps people repair items such as small electronics, bikes and clothing.

The committee plans to expand the "free pile" of past years and to collect and donate usable home goods and other items to local nonprofit organizations.

Sabin residents are invited to bring their yard debris, metal, wood, mattresses, furniture, electronics and bulky waste to the Clean-Up. No items allowed in curbside garbage, recyclables or compost will be accepted. Also, concrete, brick, stone or tires are not accepted.

The committee is looking for volunteers to perform a variety of tasks such as coordinating traffic, counting patrons and organizing reusable goods during the Clean-Up. A volunteer with a pick-up truck to deliver items to nearby donation organizations also would be a great help, Maser says.

To sign up for volunteering or for more information, e-mail Maser at lindseymaser@gmail.com.

Whose fence is it anyway?

Editor's note: This is the first in a two-part series on the subject of "Good fences make good neighbors."

Our family lives one house in from the corner of our block in Sabin. As a result, a large portion of one side of our yard abuts the property of a couple that lives around the corner. Maybe because we are not next-door neighbors, over the seven years we've lived here we haven't had much opportunity to interact.

Eventually, the fence that divided our yards started to lean — subtly at first and then precariously. At that point, our side-yard neighbors expressed concern that the fence might fall over into their yard and asked me when I was going to have it repaired. The question caught me off guard. Since the fence was in place when we moved in, and I had always assumed it sat on the property line, I wasn't sure if it was my fence, their fence or our collective fence.

Because the neighbors believed the fence belonged to me and because I had a definite idea of how I wanted the fence to look, I went ahead and had the fence replaced. As a result, regardless of who technically owned the fence before, it is now mine, both in my eyes and, I'm sure, in theirs as well. In hindsight, had we worked together on the fence, it might have offset some of my cost and given me the opportunity to get to know my neighbors better.

Since then, I have researched fence ownership and have learned that it depends on whose property the fence sits. If it actually sits on the property line, then both property owners are legally responsible for its upkeep and are potentially liable for any harm caused to third parties injured by a neglected fence. But if you are like me and not confident about the parameters of your property, it may cost more to find out



who is ultimately responsible than it costs to repair or replace the fence.

When neighbors disagree over property lines or who is responsible for fence maintenance or replacement, Resolutions Northwest is a helpful resource. This Portland nonprofit organization provides free mediation services for all kinds of neighborhood disputes. You can contact them by phone at 503-595-4890 or by e-mail at info@resolutionsnorthwest.org.

Ideally, working together with your neighbor to agree on a fence design and budget you both can live with is the most cost-effective and neighborly approach. Happy fencing!

— Kyann Kalin

Access Sabin news online

To view Sabin Community Association newsletters starting with the January 2014 issue, go online to SCA's website (www.sabinpdx.org). Click on "More" at the top of the page and select "Newsletter Archives." Readers can catch up on breaking local news that affects Sabin by subscribing to the blog feed on SCA's website or by "liking" SCA on Facebook.



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