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1,500+ homes, businesses



Our Community in Action

Beech Street Project under way

Imagine strolling along Northeast Beech Street between about 7th and 15th avenues, passing home after home fronted with attractively landscaped curb strips. Occasionally, you pause to inspect book titles inside several library boxes that encourage you to take a book, but replace it with another. Maybe you'll stop at a poetry box to read your neighbors' creative ponderings or marvel at the colorful street paintings at several intersections.

This is Sabin resident Arati von Behren's vision and the reason she has spearheaded the Beech Street Project, currently gaining momentum with her friends and neighbors. She hopes the project "will create a pedestrian-friendly space where neighbors can get to know each other, traffic can move a little slower, and birds, bees and other pollinators will interact happily with the environment."

Selected by Portland nonprofit City Repair as one of its 2014 Village Building Convergence projects, von Behren's Beech Street Project includes three components:

- **Paint intersections at 9th, 11th and 13th avenues.** Neighbors are encouraged to submit design ideas. On March 9 from 3 to 5 p.m., von Behren will host a "Treat-Luck" at Fly Awake Tea Garden, which she and her husband own and operate in their side yard at 3514 N.E. 13th Ave. Neighbors are invited to bring a vegetarian treat and enjoy a cup of free tea while they vote for their favorite intersection painting designs. Designs will be displayed at the tea garden for voting until May 9.

- **Build an earthen bench between 11th and 12th avenues.** Pedestrians will be able to stop, relax and meet their neighbors.

- **Encourage homeowners to make their curb strips more interactive and wildlife-friendly.** Von Behren has created several landscaping templates for people who need



Above, Arati von Behren and her daughter, Uvaursi, pause to admire a poetry box on Northeast Beech Street. Below is an example of a painted intersection.



ideas for planting native species that create habitat for birds, bees and butterflies. And she is nurturing tiny starts of native plants to give away to those on a budget. She also hopes many homeowners will choose to put up a poetry box or a "little library," or decorate their strips with some type of garden art.

She invites Sabin residents to consider donating money to help pay for paint, bee-friendly flowers and other supplies or donating their time or expertise to make the

Continued on page 2

**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.

March 10
April 14
May 12

EVENTS CALENDAR

WWW.SABINPDX.ORG
FOR SELECT INFORMATION ON SABIN EVENTS

"Treat-Luck"

Vote on Beech Street
Project intersection designs
March 9, 3-5 p.m.
Fly Awake Tea Garden,
3514 N.E. 13th Ave

Work & Learn Party

March 16, 2-4 p.m.
Sabin Community Orchard,
Northeast Mason between
18th and 19th avenues

Bee-friendly gardens forum

March 19, 6:30 p.m.
Northeast Coalition of
Neighborhoods, King
School, 4815 N.E. 7th Ave.



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

SABIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

MARCH 2014

Local artist wants to involve neighbors in project honoring Sabin's past, present

Longtime Sabin resident and artist Linda Wysong is gathering stories and photos of the Sabin community as it has evolved over the last 100 years for a new Portland neighborhood-based artist residency project she is developing "to honor the past and embrace the new."

Wysong is looking for Sabin residents' personal stories about their lives and favorite places — past and present — including local businesses, churches and the streetcars that used to run in Sabin. She also is looking for contacts with families that have moved away. One question she is curious about: "What local walk would you take with an out-of-town visitor?"

Wysong hopes Sabin residents with memories and family history will join her during a series of coffee hours she is scheduling at Extracto Coffeehouse, 1465 N.E. Prescott, on Thursdays at 4 p.m. during March and April.

Her project is part of an artist-organized program called Resident Residency (<http://residentresidency.org>). According to organizers, the program differs from most artist-in-residence programs because it values artists staying home to focus on the place and people where they live and work.

"This seemingly modest proposal has the potential for radical change. It takes art out of the gallery and connects it to the practical and the poetic concerns of our daily life," Wysong explains.

Wysong teaches at Pacific Northwest College of Art in Portland. Her previous work includes a residency in Multnomah County that culminated in "On the Road," a tour of



Linda Wysong

To learn more or to see her work, go to www.lindawysong.com.

Neighbors are encouraged to contact her at lindabluehouse@gmail.com to receive on-going information and notices of events.

— Beech Street Project

Continued from page 1

Beech Street Project a reality. She anticipates most of the work will be done between May 23 and June 1.

Von Behren says she chose Beech for the project because the street has relatively little vehicle traffic, is near both Irving and Two Plum parks and is a popular pedestrian route to the Albina Library, which already is decorated by a colorful mural.

"I really hope that this will help make a safe, community space where people feel comfortable with their fellow residents," von Behren adds.

For more information, contact her at tea@flyawakepdx.com or stop by the Fly Awake Tea Garden.

— Susan Goracke



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SCA Board asks NECN help with affordable housing issues

At its February meeting, Sabin Community Association's Board voted unanimously to ask the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods to help find solutions to problems associated with the shrinking availability of affordable housing.

"For the past year or two, neighbors have been expressing concerns about older houses being torn down and replaced with new homes that seem out of scale with the neighborhood," explains Diane Benson, board vice president.

"A related concern is the impact of these changes on affordable housing and diversity," she adds. "Builders are competing to buy land in Sabin, which drives up prices. As a result, home prices are rising steadily, which means fewer opportunities for lower- and middle-income families to stay in or move to the neighborhood."

Benson points to historical Census statistics for a tract of land that includes west Sabin and south King neighborhoods. Between 1980 and 2010, the number of people identifying

themselves as Black dropped from 1,883 to 585. During those same 30 years, the number of people identifying themselves as White grew from 814 to 1,923. The number of people representing all other racial groups hardly changed, inching up from 242 to 249.

"The consequence of this trend will be continued loss of diversity in our community," Benson says.

According to President Clay Veka, "The SCA board is committed to working with community partners to try to identify ways to help stem the loss of diversity in Sabin."

A group of Sabin and King residents is already working with the Sabin Community Development Corporation to look into the possibility of creating a housing trust that would establish some affordable housing for lower- and middle-income families.

Sabin residents concerned about these issues are encouraged to contact Veka at clayveka@gmail.com or Benson at dcb1810@yahoo.com.

Work and learn at the Sabin Orchard

As winter grows nearer to the end of its season, volunteers are needed to help clean up the Sabin Community Orchard.

In February, the crew met to learn about winter pruning from Katelyn Hale. Volunteers cleaned up the orchard from winter damage and pruned trees for the fall harvest.

At the March Work & Learn Party, Sabin neighbors will continue to clean up perennials. Everyone is welcome to

come join the fun on Sunday, March 16, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the orchard on Northeast Mason between 18th and 19th avenues. To attend, RSVP to michael@portlandfruit.org.

During April, we plan to meet the fourth Sunday, April 27, rather than the third Sunday as initially planned for our Work & Learn Party. We hope you'll mark your calendar to celebrate Earth Day with the neighborhood in the orchard.

— Rachel Lee

SABIN BRIEFS

Sabin Auction set April 5

Don't forget to buy your tickets to the Sabin School Auction, a fun-filled evening on April 5 with a 1980s theme and hundreds of items, including vacation packages. Bid on two nights at a Brasada Ranch two-bedroom cabin, or a week in a private, spacious home in Manzanita four blocks from the beach. The auction is Sabin School's major annual fundraiser. Visit www.sabinauction.com for tickets or more information.

Forum to spotlight bee-friendly gardens

The Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods will host a forum, "Urban Bee Habitat: Start a bee-friendly garden project in your neighborhood!" on March 19 at 6:30 p.m. at the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods, King School Facility, 4815 N.E. Seventh Ave. The forum will feature a discussion by panel members Mace Vaughan, Tim Wessels and Diane Benson, all Sabin residents, plus Glen Andresen, who teaches gardening and beekeeping classes and moderates The Dirtbag, a KBOO radio show about organic gardening. For more information, visit www.necoalition.org.

SCA discontinues e-newsletter

Sabin Community Association has ceased publishing its monthly e-newsletter. Those who prefer to read the newsletter online can do so at SCA's website (www.sabinpdx.org). To view pdf files of newsletters starting with the January 2014 issue, click on "More" at the top of the website's home page and select "Newsletter Archives." Readers also 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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Sabin History Series

Welcome to the neighborhood tavern

A hundred years ago, drinking establishments were sprinkled throughout inner northeast Portland, which was then a separate city called Albina.

Kegs were stored under the bar, and beer was drawn by a brass pressure tap or by a gravity faucet inserted directly in the keg. Men stood at the bar, as stools did not come into use until after Prohibition.

Prohibition was not well-received by many of the Volga German immigrants who lived in the neighborhood. Elder Peter Yost of the Free Evangelical Brethren Church reportedly gave his greatest sermon during this time, complaining that "food" was being taken away from his people.

In many families, it was common to send a young child to the tavern with a tin pail to fetch beer to drink with dinner. The bartender would fill the pail, and the child



This photo, courtesy of Shanna Minarik, shows the Ludwig Miller Saloon (circa 1913). The saloon was located at 740 Union Ave., now known as Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard.

would carry it home, careful not to spill a drop.

Editor's note: Diane Benson condensed this story from a longer version published at the volgagermans.net website, courtesy of Steve Schreiber.

Sabin adopts new guiding principles

The Sabin Community Association Board unanimously adopted a new set of guiding principles at its February meeting. The principles replace an outdated list of values and goals.

Although a community association board's role is to reflect the issues and needs of its members, reflecting those needs isn't easy with more than 1,500 households in the community, points out SCA Board President Clay Veka.

"Often, there is a wide range of opinions, especially on controversial topics such as the infill development that's occurring in our neighborhood or the proposed renovation of the sports field where the tickle bees live," she adds. To help navigate complex issues like these, the SCA board unanimously adopted the following set of principles:

- Be accepting, inclusive and fair.
- Engage the community.
- Seek to understand and meet community needs.
- Support diversity.
- Encourage local businesses.
- Prepare for the future and promote sustainable living.
- Care for our natural environment and wildlife.
- Partner with community organizations.

"I believe the new principles will help guide the board's decisions and actions in years to come," Veka adds. "I anticipate that they'll be especially useful when setting goals and deciding which community projects to fund."

— Diane Benson

Albina Library plans artistic events

Albina Library, 3605 N.E. 15th Ave., has scheduled several special events featuring an artistic theme during March:

- **"Woven Basket,"** a program designed for families with children, on Saturday, March 8, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Papercraft artist Sarah Fagan will guide participants in creating baskets from recycled cardstock. Attendance is on a first-come, first-served basis.

- **"Hand-cut Paper Creations"** is the title of Judith Hankin's program for adults on Tuesday, March 11, from 6:15 to 7:45 p.m. After exploring the history of making paper-cut art in a variety of

cultures, Hankin will teach participants how to cut their own designs using colorful papers and an X-Acto knife. Registration is required, and participation is limited. Call 503-988-5362.

- **"Creative Personal Journals"** is set Saturday, March 15, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. for children in grades K through 5. To celebrate 150 years of services at the Multnomah County Library, children will design a journal notebook using items such as papers, buttons, feathers, pens and pencils. They are encouraged to bring a copy of a favorite photo or picture to personalize their books. Attendance is on a first-come, first-served basis.

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