Volunteers Needed

Spring Clean Up Coming, Saturday, May 12th

by Dave Brook

Spring cleaning for Gulch residents is almost here. Our annual neighborhood Spring Clean Up (aka Trash Bash) will be held Saturday, May 12 from 9 am to 1 pm. Again this year, it’s a joint effort with Irvington neighborhood and will be held at the Holladay Park Church of God, NE 21st and Tillamook.

The dumpsters will be ready for your trash and volunteers will be standing by to recycle a number of items not accepted in the City’s curbside recycling. A donation is suggested, since this is a fundraiser both neighborhoods.

Recyclables accepted this year include:
- Metals and appliances — no charge
- Block styrofoam — $1-5 suggested
- Tires — $5 each suggested
- Car batteries — $5 each suggested
- Electronic waste — $1-5 per item.

This year we will not be accepting paint, hazardous waste, batteries, or fluorescent lamps. As in previous years, no curbside recycling items will be accepted. This means no yard debris, cardboard, paper, glass, or plastic. Nearby recycling locations for these items will be posted on the SGNA website.

Other items may be included as well, so watch the corner signs and check the web site during the week before the Clean Up for details.

Metro, the City of Portland, and the NE Coalition of Neighborhoods (NECN) help make the clean ups possible. And thanks also to Gabriel’s Bakery for providing volunteers with pastries for the day.

To sign up, or for more information about the Spring Clean Up, visit our web site at www.sullivansgulch.org, or contact Dave Brook, 503-313-1320, dbrookportland@gmail.com.
West End of Sullivan’s Gulch Considered for Experimental Permit Parking Program  by Chris Tanner

Picture this scenario: You return home from work at noon to let your dog out, but alas! There is not a single parking place within blocks of your house. Streets are filled with unfamiliar cars and construction vehicles, a problem that has become increasingly common.

Although the City has offered a parking permit program for decades, Sullivan’s Gulch Neighborhood has had at least two failed attempts to create an area parking permit zone. Some of the rules of the program were too restrictive, and we were concerned that the cost of permits might be prohibitive, especially for lower-income folks living in the neighborhood. In January of this year, the City Council, at the request of PBOT, established a pilot project program to engage with neighborhoods and find better ways to manage parking in high demand areas of the City due to residential/commercial growth.

At the February Board Meeting, the Sullivan’s Gulch Neighborhood Association Board voted unanimously to prepare an application for participation in the Area Parking Permit Pilot Program. Based on previously collected data, and the Board’s observations, we selected the west end of the neighborhood from NE 16th to NE 21st, between Multnomah and Weidler. This area is particularly impacted by commuters who park here, then use public transportation to downtown for work. We expect the problem to be exacerbated as construction begins on the Lloyd Center theatre parking lot apartment buildings and on the Sears building renovation.

We are one of six applicants invited by PBOT to proceed to the next step in the selection of the two neighborhoods that will participate in the program. These steps are focused on collecting data to determine the eligible neighborhoods, then seeking input from all residents in the affected area:

- PBOT Staff will collect data in the proposed collection areas the first two weeks of May.
- PBOT staff will make a list of the eligible neighborhoods based on the data and advise pilot neighborhoods mid-May.
- An evening public meeting will be scheduled in the top two neighborhoods to answer citizen questions and receive comments before the end of May.
- In June, ballots will be mailed to addresses (own or rent) within the boundaries of the area identified. The ballots are the vote held to determine if the occupants within the proposed boundaries agree to start a program.
- If a vote fails, PBOT will go to the next neighborhood on the list going through the ballot process in July.
- All neighborhood associations and addresses within the boundaries will be notified if the pilot program is going to proceed in their neighborhood by the end of July.
- PBOT will take the two neighborhood recommendations to Council in August.

If you have any questions about the program, come to the May 2nd neighborhood meeting or contact SGNA Board member Chris Tanner at chris.tanner47@com. Also, watch our website at www.sullivansgulch.org.

Land Use Committee Updating Plan to Enhance Gulch Livability

SGNA has initiated a Neighborhood Plan update, which retains elements from previous plans while adding new initiatives that respond to emerging issues. An important addition is a plan framework focusing on social equity, climate action, and livability.

Each chapter in the Plan includes a fact-based summary of current and forecast conditions, followed by goals, actions, and performance measures. The planning horizon is 20 years, which matches the horizon in The Portland Plan.

The Sullivan’s Gulch Neighborhood Action Plan seeks to advance the Portland Plan’s vision for inner NE Portland. It is a plan for growth, but growth that is sensitive to our neighborhood’s roots. The goal, policies and actions are those that will enhance livability in our corner of the city and showcase how an inner-city neighborhood can embrace change and thrive.

Please take a look at the current draft of the Sullivan’s Gulch Neighborhood Plan in the Land Use and Transportation section of the SGNA web site. Your comments and suggestions are welcomed.

Also, please attend any of our LUTC meetings at 6:30pm the fourth Thursday of each month at Holladay Park Plaza, 1300 NE 16th Ave.
Letter from the SGNA Chair

What is a Neighborhood Association?

Sullivan’s Gulch is home to more than 2,000 households. We’re a diverse neighborhood, with a substantial mix of old homes and rental property, condos, apartments, retirement homes, churches, as well as a wide variety of shops, bars, restaurants, and services within easy walking distance along Broadway. And we’ve got lots of transportation options: good sidewalks, the 20’s bikeway, four “frequent service” bus lines, and light rail within walking distance.

The Sullivan’s Gulch Neighborhood Association (SGNA) is a city-recognized organization set up to advise the city on livability issues, particularly land use and public safety. Another important role is to coordinate events that improve the livability and sociability of the neighborhood. We do this in several ways.

Yes, we have committees. Boring, right? Not! These include the very active Land Use and Transportation Committee that works with developers, city planners, and other agencies. We have a Safety and Livability Committee that is putting on several block parties this summer to help neighbors get to know each other better. And, of course, there’s a Board of Directors, elected by everyone in the neighborhood to oversee these activities.

If you’ve got an idea, complaint, or question about what’s happening in the neighborhood, please attend our monthly Board meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Encorepreneur Cafe, 1548 NE 15th Ave., from 7–9pm. We’re also holding our neighborhood wide public information meetings on Wednesday, May 2nd (see article on page 1).

All these activities don’t happen by themselves. They’re the result of your neighbors who like where they live and volunteer to make things a little better — for everyone.

—Dave Brook, Chairperson, SGNA

Find these new features now on the SGNA web site!

• SGNA Annual Calendar
• Draft Neighborhood Plan
• Development Tracker
• Our Local Businesses - a new directory of local businesses and non-profits

Block Parties and Street Painting Coming this Summer

This year, the SGNA Board of Directors decided to try something new. In an effort to broaden our base of neighborhood involvement and to deepen our relationships with each other, we decided to hold a series of block parties throughout the summer in different parts of the neighborhood.

The Safety and Livability Committee is teaming up with the Sullivan’s Gulch Neighborhood Emergency Team for some neighborhood fun, mixed with lots of important information about how we can help each other stay safe in emergencies. These block parties scattered around the neighborhood will replace the annual Gulch-O-Rama held in September.

Our first block party of this year’s series will be held on Sunday, June 3, 2 pm-5 pm, on Weidler, just east of 28th in the adjoining park. It’s a celebration to welcome the summer season! Bring a chair and a dish to share.

The July block party is on July 14 on Wasco, between 22th and 23th at 6pm.

The August 3 block party on Clackamas between 17th and 19th (time TBD) will coincide with the installation of the Street Painting project the first weekend of August.

September’s block party will be at a yet-to-be-decided time and location. Got an idea? Let us know.

If you want to help plan any of these events, look for the announcement of Safety and Livability meetings (SGNA web site, NextDoor, and Gulchnet) or contact Kelly Francois, 504-289-5805 or kelfran13@gmail.com.

Sullivan’s Gulch NET Update

Meet and talk with members of the Sullivan’s Gulch Neighborhood Emergency Team at this summer’s neighborhood block parties. Not familiar with the SG-NET? Learn more on the SGNA web site and take our neighborhood preparedness survey.

The SG-NET continues to develop its skills and planning for deployments in case of neighborhood emergencies. We are reaching out to residents and businesses throughout The Gulch to raise awareness about the importance of household emergency preparedness.

The SG-NET needs the following supplies: crowbars, car jacks, rain ponchos, canopies, large tents, tarps, garbage bags, 5 gallon plastic buckets (clean), rope, saws, battery powered lanterns, and duct tape. If you can donate, please contact Chris Tanner at chris.tanner47@com.
New Developments to have Big Impact on the Gulch

Two significant projects affecting Sullivan’s Gulch recently got the green light from the city’s Design Review Commission. The Sears building at Lloyd Center will be renovated into a fourteen-screen Regal Cinema complex, with cinemas on the third floor and new retail space on the first two floors.

The Design Commission also approved redevelopment of the old cinema building and the Sears parking lots between NE 16th Avenue and the Lloyd Center mall. The cinema’s west parking lot has already been approved for mixed use development. These projects combined will add 1,244 apartments, 45,000 sq. ft. of commercial space, and 805 underground parking spaces to the neighborhood’s west end. SGNA has been able to influence the project’s design for public access through the development, which will enhance pedestrian links to the new cinema, the Mall, Holiday Park, and the MAX Station. Work on Phase 1 and the Sears remodel is expected to begin this summer but final completion of all phases of these projects is anticipated to take 5–7 years. A representative from Lloyd Center will attend the May 2nd SGNA Neighborhood Meeting to answer questions about the new developments.

While it monitors and advises developers on upcoming projects, our Land Use and Transportation Committee is also working on its goals and priorities for the upcoming year. Current work includes an updated neighborhood plan (see page 2), an update to the Broadway-Weidler Corridor Plan, our part in the updated Portland Pedestrian Plan, and various city planning initiatives. As part of this work, the neighborhood is moving ahead this summer with improvements to the pedestrian crossing at NE Clackamas & 21st Ave., using a City grant.

Anyone interested in the work that the Land Use and Transportation Committee is doing should contact DJ Heffernan (djheff1@gmail.com) and attend LUTC meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month.

Looking for a Community Garden? The Gulch Garden Sprouts Again.

The Gulch Garden is up and running again this year. If you’d like a garden plot with water in the neighborhood, this is the place. The Gulch Garden grows food donated to low-income food programs in the Portland area as well as produce for personal use. If you’re interested in joining in, please call Linda at 503-317-0118.

Under Construction: 2020 NE Multnomah

TwentyTwenty is the name of the condos now going up at NE 21st Avenue and Multnomah. It will be seven-stories with 162 condominiums with sizes ranging from one-bedrooms to penthouse residences. The project, designed by Hacker Architects, is scheduled to be completed summer of 2019. It’s the first class-A residential condominium development in more than a decade.