



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS Richmond

| SPRING ISSUE 2021 | THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION |
| OPEN BOARD MEETINGS THE SECOND MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH - CHECK WWW.RICHMONDPDX.ORG |

A Message from the RNA Board Chair

Hello Neighbors,

Happy Spring! By now, the flowers and trees are bursting with color and the COVID-19 vaccine rollout is in full force. I'm sure we all are looking forward to the pandemic waning in the coming months, and being able to see family, neighbors and friends in person again.

Our Richmond Neighborhood Association has been successfully meeting via Zoom for about a year. We have hosted many guest speakers, co-hosted several meetings with City Commissioners with neighboring NA's and had many lively conversations with our Richmond neighbors who have come to our meetings to learn and share their thoughts and concerns.

All those who rent, own a business or home in Richmond are General Members of the RNA, and anyone who wishes to attend our meetings, Member or not, is always welcome!

Join us at our upcoming meetings to share your ideas, find out what we are working on and listen to our guest speakers. We meet the second Monday of the month (excluding January), and our agendas are posted on our website: www.richmondpx.org We look forward to meeting new neighbors and greeting old friends as well.

Kind Regards,

Debby Hochhalter
Chair

Richmond Neighborhood Association
Richmond.pdx.chair@gmail.com

A Message from the Newsletter Editor

The newsletter is one of the vehicles that help Richmond residents remain informed about what is going on in their vicinity. It promotes inclusiveness and encourages resident's participation in the social and ecological well-being of our neighborhood and city. Members of the RNA Board were very pleased when several residents attended the first Board meeting of 2021 on February 8 for the first time. Some of them indicated that they decided to attend the meeting after reading the last winter edition.

We received a poem from a student from Sunnyside Environmental School and it is published here. I ask parents to share the poem with their children and encourage our younger residents to submit their own artistic creations for publication in the news-

letter. There are many types of original works they can submit such as poems, drawings, photographs, compositions and even reviews of books they have recently read and recommend. The RNA Board is preparing for elections this coming May. We all hope that residents choose to actively participate in electing Board members and, moreover, consider submitting their candidacy. Joining the Board last year gave me a unique insight into how many different issues can affect the way we live in this great neighborhood. We have many neighbors who work hard advocating and generously giving their time and efforts for all of us. Participation of a larger number of neighbors in advocacy for our neighborhood is needed and welcomed.

Simon Kipersztok
RNAnewsletter@gmail.com

Children's Poem Corner

Sad

By Sophie Wice-Budner

Sad is what you feel when you want it to be sunny
but it pours rain.

You want the river to be warm
but it's ice cold.

You want to climb your favorite tree
but it falls down.

That tree won't come back
but you will find
a new favorite tree.

For that day or week or month
the river will be ice cold
but it will be warm again.
That day it won't be sunny
but it will be sunny again.
You might feel sad but sad
is not who you are.

Sophie Wice-Budner is a 10 year-old 4th grader at Sunnyside Environmental School. She loves to draw, write, do math, and do acrobatics.

HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT

The Importance of Universal Vaccination

By Dr. Simon Kipersztok, MD

The Corona virus pandemic situation continues to be at the center of interest of most residents. As time progresses the outlook for all of us to return to a life as we knew it, before the pandemic hit us, is looking brighter. The Biden administration has set as an immediate goal the eradication of COVID-19 in the USA and the world. First and foremost, universal COVID-19 immunizations should bring us close to that goal. You can find local centers where to receive the vaccine at <https://multco.us/novel-coronavirus-covid-19/covid-19-vaccine-information>.

There are three vaccines available named after the company that manufactures them: Moderna, Pfizer and Johnson&Johnson (JNJ). The latter requires a single dose. The other two require two doses administered 14 days apart. Most authorities agree that all the three vaccines are effective and that vaccination is recommended for all people over 16 years old. The JNJ vaccine is manufactured using cells from a fetus that was electively aborted in 1985 so some individuals may feel an ethical dilemma accepting it if it is the only one available at a given site. I am aware that the Vatican and an umbrella organization of Baptist congregations have issued statements on this matter. Concerned neighbors should consult with their spiritual counselors. The manufacturing of the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines did not involve human tissue. Allergy to any vaccine component is a contraindication to

its administration.

The recommendation for universal vaccination is based on the concept of developing “herd immunity”. Viruses like the one causing COVID-19 and the flu can only replicate using the cellular replication machinery of the host they infect. The higher the number of immune individuals in a population, the lower the likelihood that the virus will infect non-immune individuals. Also, the viral replication is not always 100% accurate thus creating viral variants that may have a different biological behavior than the original virus. We have observed variants developing in Brasil, South Africa, United Kingdom and other countries. Some of the variants can be more virulent and harmful to certain populations than the original virus. Therefore, the sooner a majority of the population is immunized, the sooner “herd immunity” is achieved and the sooner the eradication of the virus. Also, the sooner “herd immunity” is achieved the lower the likelihood of developing more harmful variants. As of this writing the virus causing COVID-19 has caused the death of more than 500,000 individuals in the US and close to 2.7 million people in the world. Vaccination should be taken seriously since eradication of the virus is beneficial to individual, s their loved ones and the society in which they live.

Community Resource Contact List

Urgent Assistance

- 911 – when health or safety is at immediate risk
- Domestic Violence Hotline 888-235-5333 (can text)
- Lines for Life
 - Suicide Prevention Hotline 800-273-8255
 - Alcohol & Drug Helpline 800-923-4357
 - Racial Equity Support Line 503-575-3764
 - Senior Loneliness Line 800-282-7035
- MultCo Crisis Mental Health Hotline 800-716-9769
- LGBTQ Hotline 888-843-4564
- Teen Crisis hotline 877-968-8491
(text 839 863 “teen2teen”)
- Police non-emergency 503-823-3333
- Trauma Intervention Program (TIP) 503-940-7997
(immediate support for trauma victims and their families)

Food Insecurity

- Catholic Charities – pantry bag of food for anyone – 2740 SE Powell Blvd.
503-231-4866 call first to check availability. Wednesday & Friday, noon-2pm.
- Oregon Food Bank Free Food Markets, many locations – www.oregonfoodbank.org
- SNAP (food stamps) information and support: SE Portland Self-Sufficiency Office –
971-673-2550 / Multilingual Line 833-604-0877

COVID19

- General Information Multnomah County
multco.us/novel-coronavirus-covid-19
- Other Assistance
 - Vaccines 211 – press 0 for the vaccine line
 - Homeowners - Foreclosure Avoidance Mediation Program
503-451-6791
 - Renters - Eviction Moratorium
oregoncat.org/legal-protections-for-tenants
 - Landlord Compensation Fund
covid19.211info.org/landlords
 - Free Fabric Masks portlandmaskproject.org

Compiled March 21, 2021 by Amanda Westervelt, Richmond NET Team Lead and also an information and referral specialist currently employed by 211info She also coordinates projects and volunteers for Portland Mask Project.

**GET INVOLVED IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!
EVERYONE IS WELCOME
THE RNA BOARD MEETS ON THE 2ND MONDAY
OF EVERY MONTH VIA ZOOM 6:30-8:30 PM.
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED AT THE RNA WEBSITE
WWW.RICHMONDPDX.COM**

RETURNING TO NORMAL - LOCAL BUSINESS UPDATES

Hawthorne Boulevard Business Association (HBBA)

The Hawthorne Boulevard Business Association (HBBA) was established in 1984 by Roger C. Jones, its current treasurer. The association traces its roots in a group of businessmen called “The Hawthorne Boosters”, active in the 1950’s. When they dispersed there was no association advocating for the many businesses on Hawthorne Boulevard until the establishment of the present HBBA. I spoke with Nancy Chapin, the association administrator since 1991 to get an idea of how the pandemic affected local businesses and inquire how they are preparing for the foreseeable future when we will all return to our pre-pandemic life.

According to its by-laws, the HBBA considers all the approximately 400 businesses in Hawthorne Boulevard as members and as beneficiaries of the association’s advocacy to promote an active and stable business environment. After the first mailing fifty-two of those businesses are “financially-supporting businesses”. Eighty of the businesses are owned by women either alone or with a business partner. Many sectors are represented including personal care, health, retail, professional services, property management, restaurant, retail, and others. Hawthorne Boulevard is the financial district of the southeast of Portland.

The HBBA extends from 12th to 55th Avenue and includes two blocks on each side of the boulevard. The territory includes five neighborhood associations with the Richmond association (RNA) being one of them. The present RNA Board, and the Boards of other neighborhood associations, view the HBBA as an entity that enhances the quality of life of residents in their neighborhood and voted to financially support the HBBA with very modest amounts of their budgets to promote the recovery of businesses serving our communities.

The pandemic affected first, and foremost, food and drink establishments followed by retail. Some that closed have already returned and re-opened and the HBBA is currently trying to ascertain how many more new ones will open. In preparation to resume pre-pandemic business activity the HBBA has engaged a PSU senior majoring in marketing to enhance their website and social media presence. As a start, their website has been updated and is www.HawthorneBlvd.com and it displays the logos of the many businesses in the boulevard and their web links. There is also a virtual “street fair” called “Hawthorne at Home” www.hawthorneblvd.com/HAH with music, booths and children’s activities displaying the logos of the many businesses in the boulevard and their web links. Residents can help the HBBA’s mission by shopping locally. About 75% of every dollar spent locally remains local, contrary to the situation when shopping is done on the web at other outlets.

The HBBA is planning many events in the spring and summer during Mother’s and Father’s Day and likely during

Independence Day in July. The association is also hoping that the city will allow them to have their yearly Hawthorne Boulevard Fair that had to be cancelled last summer due to the pandemic. All events will be advertised in the website and at the HBBA Facebook (@hawthornepdx) and on Instagram.

Division-Clinton Business Association (DCBA)

The DCBA has had a rough year. The pandemic resulted in the closure of several businesses and the previously planned TRIMET construction on Division Street restricted access to many establishments that remained open. At its membership height the DCBA consisted of about 100 members. As of the time of this writing the association has invited membership to all businesses present in their area and they have about 25 members. Many sectors are represented including real estate, tax preparation, health industry, marketing, retail, and restaurants. Retail and restaurants are ones that have been mostly affected.

We spoke with Constance Ohlinger, ND, a naturopathic physician, and current chair of the DCBA. She indicated that the association and its members, are very resilient despite the shortcomings they experienced last year. They have a new active and enthusiastic Board planning to act on behalf of their members and support them in their recovery. During this spring the DCBA will plan to hold some “pop-ups”, events in which several of the businesses put up tents at a designated location so that they can show and tell the public what they offer in their establishments. They are also planning for the spring a “scavenger hunt” in their social media outlets. One more event they are planning for during the summer months is a modified street fair that needs to be coordinated with the completion of the TRIMET construction.

Dr. Ohlinger indicated that Richmond residents can help the DCBA by keeping their dollar expenses local and by frequenting the association’s social media outlets in Instagram @ [divisionclinton](https://www.instagram.com/divisionclinton) and Facebook [@DivisionClintonBA](https://www.facebook.com/DivisionClintonBA) and by visiting their website at www.divisionclinton.com

**IF YOU WANT TO BE ADDED TO THE RNA LISTSERV
TO GET MEETING AGENDAS AND NOTICES
EMAIL TO RichmondNAsecretary@gmail.com**

**IF YOU DID NOT GET THE RNA NEWSLETTER
ON YOUR DOORSTEPS, WE COULD USE YOUR
HELP WITH ITS DISTRIBUTION
CONTACT RichmondNAsecretary@gmail.com
IF YOU WANT TO HELPDISTRIBUTE THIS
NEWSLETTER TO YOUR NEIGHBORS.**

Neighbors You Might Not Know

By Jillana Goble

It's 6:30 pm on a Friday. My cell phone buzzes on the kitchen counter. I know that familiar number and I already know why they are calling me. It's the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) Child Welfare. I pick up and hear the details. There are four children, siblings ages 4-12. They are waiting at one of Multnomah County's four Child Welfare offices. Their mother has relapsed into drug use and their safety cannot be assured in her care. They need a foster family. While it's impossible to predict how long they will need care, the humble request from ODHS is whether I can keep them over the weekend. This will allow the children to remain together and give the agency time to locate a relative, neighbor, or friend who can be certified as a resource. If no such adult is found, the state will turn to general applicant foster parents where the children and foster parent initially meet as strangers.

As these four children enter my home, the younger two appear relaxed and head for the backyard trampoline. The older two are more reserved. I offer snacks and they eye the goldfish crackers and apple slices warily. The twelve-year-old offers that when the Child Protective Services caseworker intercepted her at school earlier that day, she missed an assembly she'd been looking forward to all year. She had raised money to be presented at the assembly for "a little boy in need" due to medical condition. I'm struck that despite her own circumstances her mind is on someone else "in need". As she describes him, I realize I know this little boy and his mother. The next day, the twelve-year old's face softens into delight as she shares time with the boy and his mother in our living room--- a small world moment providing some measure of comfort and hope amidst her universe, now upended, as she finds herself sleeping in a strangers' home. I learn that the four-year-old had a birthday a few days prior. It is the second oldest who tells me, in a decibel barely above a whisper, "but no cake or balloons or presents". I suggest that we hold a "Birthday Party for Everybody". The idea is met with cheers and we get to work putting up all manner of decorations including the Dollar Tree "Pin the Tail" game I'd recently stashed away. One child tapes a piece of butcher paper to the back door adding everyone's birthdays. My four kids and our four additional guests. We bake cupcakes and we frost them. We sing. It feels like a larger moment than just 8 children sitting around the table. The reality is that none of us knew each other's names just 24 hours earlier.

In a brief call with the caseworker, I let her know the children are concerned for their mother and asking when they can see her. I inquire if they can have phone contact with her. While this is not something required of foster parents, nor always appropriate, I know it can make a world of difference in the reassurance it provides. I am given approval and her phone number. The children call their mother and take turns on the phone. Before they hang up, I ask to speak with her. I introduce myself. I tell her that I know I'm talking with her on one of the hardest days of her life, given that her children are not by her side. I share that while I am only a short-term placement, it has been a joy to get to know her children and that I'm rooting for her health so they

can be reunited. She's gracious through her tears.

On Monday, the agency calls, and another placement has not yet been secured. My husband and I say yes to caring for the children for the upcoming week. We know it increases the likelihood that the children will remain together, and it means one less move for them. The week goes quickly and they depart for their next foster home. I know full well that these four children and their mother will remain in my memory long after they walk out our front door.

This past year with the pandemic, disruptions to school and work, wildfires, the snowstorm and power outages, we have had precious little "normal" to keep us grounded. This instability gives us a sense for what it's like for children in foster care who, through no fault of their own, must navigate many episodes of uncertainty, often layered on top of one another. As challenging as this year has been, it also gives us the opportunity to pay renewed attention to the circumstances of others, our neighbors, including children who are being fostered and the families that are providing this care.

While children in foster care are not readily visible, I am including the following statistics to raise the visibility of these children in OUR neighborhood:

*Within a two-mile radius of Hosford Middle School, there are 51 children in foster care.

*Within a two-mile radius of Salt & Straw in the Richmond Neighborhood, there are 55 children in foster care.

*Within a two-mile radius of Franklin High School, there are 73 children in foster care.

*In Multnomah County, there are approximately 1,600 children in foster care.

*In the state of Oregon, there are approximately 7,500 children in foster care.

There is an overwhelming need for more foster parents, with offerings of time both large (the average amount of time a child spends in foster care is 15 months) and small (as with my sibling group for one week). And while I would encourage you to consider fostering or volunteering in several other ways, the intention of this article is merely to highlight these children and families as part of the Richmond community.

Sometimes our "yeses", however, have the surprising ability to turn into something much larger than ourselves. Such was my experience as I found myself decorating cupcakes with four siblings who needed a safe place to land temporarily, and together, sitting around my table. These were my Portland neighbors, who were strangers just a day before. Certainly, I am not suggesting foster parenting is all cupcakes and games and there are times it is quite the opposite. However, after 17 years of foster parenting, I can honestly say, that while it's one of the hardest journeys in my adult life, it is also the most worthwhile.

As neighbors we are getting to know one another better and showing up to offer what we can. This means there is fresh opportunity to be sensitive to children, right now, in foster care and to foster families, right here, in our Richmond Neighborhood. To learn more about various ways to volunteer or meet tangible

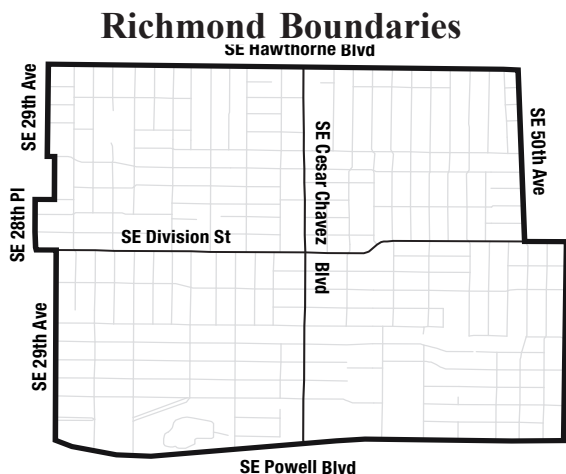
needs for kids in foster care in our community check out the “get involved” link at www.everychildpdx.org. To learn more about foster parenting, click the “foster” link at the same website.

Jillana Goble is an experienced foster, biological and adoptive mom (in that order-by her admission) who resides in SE Portland. She is the author of the book “No Sugar Coating: The Coffee Talk You Need about Foster Parenting. The book is available for \$7.99 at Amazon.com



Richmond Neighborhood Association Board

Debby Hochhalter, Chairperson
Allen Field, Co-Secretary, Liquor Licenses & GNAs, RNA Representative to SE Uplift.
Kamal Belkhat, Co-Secretary
Simon Kipersztok, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor
Heather Flint Chatto, RNA Land Use & Transportation Representative to SE Uplift
Members-At-Large: Madeleine Anderson-Clark, Claire Cofsky, Peter Forrest, Brian Hochhalter, JoAnne Knowles, Leslie Poston, Denise Hare, Albert Kaufman, two additional positions open.



Portland Police Seeking Input for New Policy on Officer Interactions with the Queer Community

By K. Avi Klepper

Portland Police Bureau (PPB) has openly queer officers and has had an LGBTQ+ community advisory council for more than 25 years. But it has never had an official policy to guide officers in their interactions with members of the Queer Community. Hopefully, that will change in a matter of months, as PPB has started to develop just such a policy. PPB’s Policy Director, Ashley Lancaster, gave a presentation on this historic policy at the February meeting of the Alliance for Safer Communities (ASC). The ASC is the LGBTQ+ community advisory council to PPB.

With the policy’s first round of public comment ending March 3, 2021, the draft of Directive 0640.38, “Interacting with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer/Questioning Persons,” is still being revised and is months away from any decision about whether PPB will ultimately adopt it. Among other things, the directive deals with such basic issues within the Queer Community as proper use of pronouns and gender references, especially when those are not consistent with what may be in official records or identification.

Despite internal support within various PPB work units, ultimate adoption is not guaranteed. For this reason, people in the local LGBTQ+ community need to advocate for the support of this policy even after the March 3 deadline.

To read the most recent version of the Directive 0640.38 draft, please use the link below. Until March 3, people can comment using the link below. Afterward, people who support this policy and want to advocate for it can email the chair of the ASC, K. Avi Klepper, at:

asc.chair.portland.oregon@gmail.com.

He will pass public comments on to the policy team at PPB.

To view the draft of Directive 0640.38, please use this link: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/article/780614>



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