

# Brooklyn NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

January/February, 2012



## Brooklyn Neighborhood General Meeting

Wednesday, January 25, 2012, 7 pm

Sacred Heart Villa Hall, Corner of SE Milwaukie Ave. & Center St.

## NEIGHBORHOOD INPUT SOUGHT

"The BAC Board will hold a focusing session annually in order to garner general recommendations to pursue for the following year." BAC Bylaws

Bring your ideas, concerns and vision for the Brooklyn neighborhood.

Check out the Brooklyn website [www.brooklyn-neighborhood.org](http://www.brooklyn-neighborhood.org) for the latest updates.

IMPORTANT!  
Please find the POSTCARD inside  
referring to this article!

## Truck Traffic Taking Over 26th Ave.

In September 2009, Union Pacific Railroad converted a lumber storage and transfer area to a semi-truck and trailer storage facility at the Brooklyn Yards in SE Portland. In doing so, they converted several public streets through Brooklyn to de-facto truck routes. Since that time, the constant semi-truck traffic from SE Powell to Holgate via SE 26th Avenue has adversely affected the livability for residents living on or near 26th Avenue, which is mostly residential.

Beyond the safety issue for pedestrians, motorists and cyclists from the illegal wide turns that these trucks take, the introduction of these 18-wheel behemoths to the neighborhood has increased air and noise pollution to our neighborhood. The livability of the Brooklyn and Creston/Kenilworth neighborhoods is being seriously compromised by the increased truck traffic and, after several letters and meetings, it is apparent that UP's management does not feel they have a legal or moral obligation to the neighborhoods since railroads fall under Federal jurisdiction. Our only recourse is our mayor, Sam Adams. Sending in this postcard will make a positive statement about our concerns. Please sign it and affix the correct postage. He needs to hear from each and every neighbor:

**WE DO NOT WANT BIG RIGS ON OUR NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS!**

## Calendar of Events

### BAC Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 11, 2012

6:30 - 8:30 pm

Sacred Heart Villa Hall  
Milwaukie & Center

### Neighborhood General Meeting

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

7 pm

Sacred Heart Villa Hall  
Milwaukie & Center

### BAC Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

6:30 - 8:30 pm

Sacred Heart Villa Hall  
Milwaukie & Center

## Brooklyn Community Garden Update

by Lee Kamrass



Recently, Portland Parks & Recreation Community Garden Coordinator, their lead heavy machinery operator and a landscape architect met with Brooklyn Community Garden coordinator, Lee Kamrass, to assess the slope at the access point to the SE Franklin St. garden site. The slope is a major concern because of the cost to make it accessible to all (conforming to ADA code) as well as the difficulty it poses to hauling materials such as compost and bark chips up to the garden area.

A rough estimate of average community garden development cost is approximately \$40,000. The cost of a ramp would add thousands of dollars to these expenses. In partnership with PP&R, Brooklyn Community Garden would be obligated to provide 50% of all start-up expenses. Additionally, due to the site access issue, there would be a longer development timeline, with PP&R's estimate of a minimum of 1 year until the garden could be ready.

At this point we are considering other options, including alternative locations for a community garden site. Updates will be presented at the BAC General Meeting in January.

## Nonconforming Sewers Update

by Mike O'Connor

The Nonconforming Sewer Citizen Advisory Committee has been meeting with Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services to develop program changes regarding how the city upgrades its sewers and charges for the upgrades. The committee has been meeting on a weekly basis since September. The issue came up over the summer when several neighbors from Brooklyn and about 100 homeowners from other areas of Portland's eastside received letters informing them that their sewer connections were not up to city code and would be replaced at the owner's expense. Some of these neighbors received estimates of tens of thousands of dollars to bring their sewers up to code.

The advisory committee has been reviewing every aspect of the city's policy regarding this issue; from

re-defining what qualifies as "nonconforming," to determining how the systems can be brought into compliance, and how much of the cost, if any, will be shared by the city's ratepayers. We feel we are making progress on the issue, thanks in part to a few very tenacious members of the committee, who are tirelessly analyzing the city's figures and policies regarding this complex issue.

When the committee has agreed on its recommended changes, it will forward those recommendations to the City Council for comment and adoption, probably in January. If you have questions about your own sewer connection or how to get involved with the committee, contact Rhetta Drennan at the City of Portland at [Rhetta.Drennan@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:Rhetta.Drennan@portlandoregon.gov) or call her at 503/823-6006.



Check out the Brooklyn Neighborhood Website  
[www.brooklyn-neighborhood.org](http://www.brooklyn-neighborhood.org)

Brooklyn Neighborhood News is published bi-monthly by the BAC. To contact the Brooklyn News, call the helpline or email the newsletter at [brooknews@brooklyn-neighborhood.org](mailto:brooknews@brooklyn-neighborhood.org)

Community announcements, local events and press releases are accepted on a space available basis. Closing date for the newsletter is on the 15th of even-numbered months. This newsletter is edited and designed by Marie Phillipi.

## BROOKLYN HELP LINE

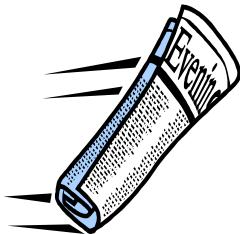
503/241-4540

The Helpline is always available for the Brooklyn neighborhood to voice their concerns or pass on information to the Brooklyn Action Corps.



SPECIAL THANKS to the following volunteers who deliver this newsletter to your door, come rain or shine, hot or cold! The neighborhood saves thousands of dollars every year by hand delivering instead of mailing.

Our appreciation to Lowell's Print Inn can never be stated enough. By donating their services and paper, they have made this newsletter possible. Also, thanks to Emily McKinnon for always being available for proofreading.



Teresa Bechtold  
Jim Bloom  
Charlene Bruihl  
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Jade Colley  
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Brad & Lia Messinger  
Eric & Rachel Murfitt  
Keith & Kerrie Nasman  
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Mike O'Connor

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Marie & Daryl Phillippi  
Kim Poppe  
Samantha Rousculp  
Matt & Annie Smeraglio  
Susan Thomson  
Ruth Ann Tsukuda  
Chris Wheeler  
Carol Wittwer  
Maria Young  
Dawn Woods  
Kurt Zenner

## MOTORCYCLES IN BROOKLYN



Every year on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of December, the Brooklyn neighborhood experiences more than 5000 motorcyclists gathered to bring toys to the kids at Doernbecher's Children's Hospital. They always gather on 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. in the TriMet parking lot. This year at least 2 busloads of toys plus many stuffed animals strapped onto bikes, departed about noon taking a route from 17<sup>th</sup> to Holgate then left on Milwaukie Ave. to cross the Sellwood Bridge, all in one long procession. This might be the last time here in Brooklyn due to the forthcoming MAX line.



## Cell Phone Issue Unites Neighborhoods

by Mike O'Connor

The Eastmoreland Neighborhood Association recently appealed to the Brooklyn Neighborhood Association for support in opposing the proposed installation of a cell tower adjacent to a residence in that neighborhood. We have reviewed this issue and agree that this is an inappropriate and potentially hazardous land use in this residential neighborhood. We plan on voting on this issue at our January Board Meeting.

This site has a planned antenna to be pointed directly at the second floor of a family home less than 50 feet away. We feel that with the increased wireless traffic and the proprietary nature of microwave communications technology, there is no current scientific consensus as to whether this tower would be safe enough to locate so close to a family residence.

After much research, we feel that the best alternative for everyone would be to place an antenna structure, disguised as a tree, on the west side of the 9th hole of the Eastmoreland Public Golf course. This structure would be farther from homes and would create a safer buffer zone around the antennas. The signal would propagate outward from the tower so that concentrated cellular communication traffic would be nowhere near children's bedrooms, like the current option.

We hope the city puts our health and safety above the wants and needs of large telecommunications companies like T-Mobile. To voice your own concern on this issue, please contact Commissioner Dan Saltzman at [dan@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:dan@portlandoregon.gov) or (503) 823-4151.

## Feeding a feral or stray cat?

The [Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon](#) and [The Pongo Fund](#) will give caregivers free cat food throughout January, 2012, when they bring a feral or stray cat to the Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon (FCCO) to be spayed or neutered. All spay/neuter services are provided at FCCO on a donation-basis. Food will be given while supplies last.

FCCO encourages caregivers to get their free-roaming cats spayed and neutered before they go into heat and have kittens in the warmer months. A cat can be safely spayed or neutered as early as two-months old. FCCO loans traps and can help caregivers with large colonies or single cats. If you are feeding feral or stray cats, please call 503-797-2606 or visit [www.feralcats.com](http://www.feralcats.com)

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Officer Eric Weber is our precinct officer. His work schedule is Sunday through Thursday, 4pm - 2am. His direct line is 503/545-3392.

DO NOT CALL OFFICER WEBER IF YOU NEED IMMEDIATE HELP OR TO REPORT A CRIME IN PROCESS. CALL 911. For Police Non-Emergency, call 503/823-3333.

## Portland/Milwaukie Light Rail Update

The Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Transit Project is moving forward! Construction on the new transit, bike and pedestrian bridge over the Willamette River is well under way. In early 2012 crews will begin preparations for light rail construction on SE 17th Avenue. Near 17th & Holgate, private utility companies (like PGE) plan to work on utility poles.

Near 17th & Powell, TriMet contractors plan to:

- 1) Demolish buildings purchased for street widening
- 2) Prepare TriMet-owned property at the southwest corner of 17th & Powell for construction staging
- 3) Work on underground sewer pipes at the northwest corner of 17th & Powell

During construction some on-street parking spaces may be unavailable. Local access to driveways will be maintained. Future phases will include more traffic impacts like lane closures and possible nighttime work.

Sign up for email updates at [trimet.org/pm](http://trimet.org/pm) or contact Jennifer Koozer, TriMet Community Affairs Representative at [koozerj@trimet.org](mailto:koozerj@trimet.org) or 503-962-2116. For light rail construction emergencies call 503-962-2222.

**Art concept: 17th & Rhine, facing northeast**



Local artist Bill Will, was selected by TriMet's Public Art Advisory Committee to create artwork for the 17th Avenue corridor. Passage is an installation comprised of approximately 40 weathered steel boat-forms that appear to be floating in the landscape strips from Powell to where 17th meets McLoughlin.

The work draws from the natural history of the area and celebrates the "green street" improvements which will result in six million gallons of storm water treatment yearly.

## WEAR YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Brooklyn T-Shirts and Hoodies are available at Bushwhacker Cider  
1212-D Powell Blvd.

Cost is \$15 each with limited quantities of S, M, L, XLG, & 2XLG. Hoodies are also available for \$25.

