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www.rcpna.org

At least 3 issues per year - *The Official Newsletter of the Rose City Park Neighborhood Association*
[Submissions Welcome at Communications@rcpna.org](mailto:Submissions>Welcome at Communications@rcpna.org)

Future of Sandy Boulevard

Winter General Membership Meeting
In-Person Feb. 27, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
German American Society, 5626 NE Alameda St.

Sandy Boulevard has been our Main Street for more than a century. But Sandy Boulevard will be changing over the next several years and this upcoming meeting will focus on broad outlines of this change and ways we as a neighborhood centered on this boulevard can understand what will change and contribute to what will be a years-long process.

The Future of Sandy discussion will be led by board member Laura Serecin. It will be exploratory in nature: What do people experience on Sandy? How do they want to experience Sandy? Do people have feelings/ideas on how to balance Sandy as a transportation corridor and a true boulevard where folks walk/stroll/bike rather than rely on the automobile? Let's get the juices flowing in small group conversations with the goal, to determine from the group if this kind of visioning is something they want to do more of.

Full agenda on back page.



CITY OF PORTLAND TRANSITION: POSSIBLE IMPACTS FOR ROSE CITY PARK

BY KIP PHEIL, RCPNA BOARD MEMBER

At our last General Meeting we heard from members of the City's transition team who outlined how the changes to our City government may impact our community. Since 1974, Rose City Park, Roseway, and
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CHAIR'S CORNER

BY ZACHARY LAURITZEN, RCPNA CHAIR

Hello friends and neighbors. I want to take a moment to acknowledge the death of Shui Yuan on the evening of Jan. 23. Ms. Yuan was struck and killed by a vehicle at 65th and Sandy.



It reminds me that Sandy is a wide road with fast moving vehicles that physically divides our neighborhood. It's a road for many things: shopping, dining, and local and long distance travel. When I talk to folks, it is a road that conjures up big feelings: how it should look, how it should feel, and how it should serve people who live near it as well as those that travel through our neighborhood on it.

Please join us at our upcoming General Meeting on Feb. 27 from 7-9 p.m. at the German American Society. Our theme for the meeting is: The Future of Sandy Boulevard. We know change is coming to our neighborhood, especially along this major corridor, and we want to spend time together discussing what folks want Sandy to be like in years to come. Bring your hopes, critiques, ideas, and dreams.

Also at the general meeting we will look at neighborhood association events of 2024. Our Board aims to enhance our community through various events, fostering a stronger sense of unity, connection, and belonging. From concerts to parades, community gatherings to garage sales, we hope there's something for everyone. Your input, involvement, and participation are key to making these events a success.

I hope to see you on Feb. 27. Until then, see you around the neighborhood.



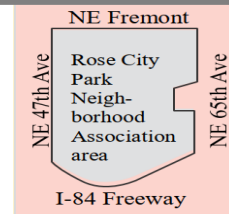
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The Rose City Park Neighborhood Association (RCPNA) is part of Portland's network of neighborhood associations, which represent their neighborhoods' interests in a wide variety of ways, including interfacing with public agencies and governing bodies. RCPNA's mission is to work to maintain and improve the livability of the neighborhood.

Membership in RCPNA is open to all persons of voting age who reside, own property or operate a business, government agency or non-profit organization within the boundaries of the neighborhood area (NE Fremont St. to I-84 and NE 47th to NE 65th Avenues). There are no dues or other requirements preventing a neighbor from being a member.

RCPNA is governed by a board of directors, unpaid volunteers who are elected annually at a general membership meeting, and it operates under the aegis of Central Northeast Neighbors, one of several area coalition offices that provide support to Portland's 95 neighborhood associations. Learn more at www.rcpna.org and social media. For info about partner Coalition members, check out www.cnncoalition.org.



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VINCENZO'S BRINGS TASTE OF SICILY TO ROSE CITY PARK

BY BETH FARIS, ROSE CITY PARK NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD MEMBER & CONTRIBUTOR

Vincenzo's Pizza opened November 2022, serving hand-tossed and Sicilian style pizza, pasta, and sandwiches in the Rose City Park neighborhood. Owned and operated by husband and wife team, Vincenzo (Vinnie) Coco and Chelsea Harshaw Coco, Vincenzo's Pizza showcases Vinnie's first and second generation food experiences as an American-Sicilian growing up on the West Coast.

At Vincenzo's Pizza the aim is to provide well-crafted, authentic meals by recreating flavors using the food practices and techniques passed down for generations in Vinnie's family. All sauces and bread are made in house, and the dough used in each pizza is from a family recipe. The dough undergoes a three-day cold fermentation process before being featured in two styles of pizza at Vincenzo's—a thinner hand tossed option or a pan-raised, thicker Sicilian pizza. In addition to the food offering, an import market is being added to the inside of the shop, featuring goods from Sicily and mainland Italy. All of the imported goods are one of a kind and cannot be found elsewhere in Portland or the West Coast.

"We want the customer to come in and enjoy a meaningful time," shares Vinnie. "Whether it's getting a pizza for the family, checking out our Italian goods, or just coming by to window shop—we want our customers to feel like they've found a hidden gem that reflects the energy and goodness of the local neighborhood joint."

Owners & Operators

Vinnie's father is a first-generation Sicilian-American, spending his youth in Villasmundo, Sicily. He immigrated to America after marrying Vinnie's mother, who was born in San Francisco to parents who immigrated from Carini, Sicily.

With strong ties to Sicily, Vinnie grew up often visiting his father's family in the homeland which helped him become familiar with all of the flavors and dishes of the region. His mother's side provided Vinnie with a background in dough knowledge as his grandfather and uncle both owned pizzerias. In the early 90s, Vinnie's parents moved to Ridgefield, Washington, where his parents ran a stone installation company and a local pizzeria. Chelsea is a Northwest native with 10 years experience in the service industry.

"We love the local community we've gotten to know, and we love being a part of a small business in Portland," continues Vinnie. "We aren't a large operation at the moment and we do everything ourselves so we hope people come to hang out, eat well, and enjoy themselves."

Come grab a slice at Vincenzo's Pizza located just off Sandy and 52nd next to Cabezon (the old Hogan's Goat spot). See the full menu and learn more at Vincenzospizzapdx.com



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ROSE CITY BLUFF VOLUNTEERS GROWING TOGETHER

BY SUZANNE BRIGGS, ROSE CITY BLUFF RESTORATION VOLUNTEER

For the last six years, an ever-growing number of neighbors have worked together to reclaim and restore the Rose City Bluff (RCB), the strip of wildness squeezed between NE Sacramento and the Rose City Golf Club course. And, with our weekly work parties, we have also grown friendships.

In 2023 alone, 61 volunteers devoted more than 880 hours to this work. The work has included the removal of Himalayan Blackberries and other encroaching non-native species and replacement with hundreds of plantings of native species.

In the last two years, 20 volunteers grew from seed more than 800 native plants, including more than 35 species new to the Bluff. The starts were then planted in our annual Fall planting parties. We have received support for our work from Central Northeast Neighborhood Coalition, East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, Xera Plants, Portland Parks and Recreation, and many generous residents.

Rose City Bluff volunteers meet every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. at the stairs on NE Sacramento at NE 62nd Avenue. Check our website at [rosecitybluff.org](https://www.rosecitybluff.org) or contact us at rosecitybluff@gmail.com



CITY CHARTER AND ROSE CITY

Continued from page 1

and Madison South have been pulled out of the northeast region and into the new District No. 3, which is mainly located south of I-84. Some RCPNA Board Members are concerned that these new boundaries may weaken historic ties and partnerships and pull us away from geographically similar associations.

The magnitude of the city transition would have been a challenge even under the best of circumstances. It appears the City Council increased complexity beyond the mandates of the new Charter by opting to reconfigure the entire City Bureau structure. That choice has increased the projected operating budget much higher than pre-vote estimates and necessitated more bureaucratic shifts being squeezed into this tight timeline.

It was clear from the General Meeting that there are mixed feelings about the charter reform. Many expressed excitement for this future, while others are less optimistic. In 2024, the RCPNA Board seeks your thoughts, concerns, and ideas on how to work with neighboring communities, current council, and those seeking to become our next council members so we can adapt to the transition to help create a more vibrant and livable Rose City Park.

Land Use and Transportation Projects

BY KELLY DAVIS, CHAIR, LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

The LU&T Committee meets the 3rd Thursday of every month from 7-9 pm at the German American Society at 5626 NE Alameda. Information on the meetings and proposed agendas will be posted ahead of time on NextDoor and on our website at RCPNA.org. These are open public meetings, and all are invited to attend.

Hollywood HUB

TriMet and Bridge Housing forwarded a presentation on the exterior materials for the Hollywood HUB housing project. The facades are primarily made up of beige brick veneer, charcoal metal composite panels and accents of green metal flashing. Construction is underway on the infrastructure components of the project with the building and courtyard construction beginning in mid-2024. Completion is anticipated in mid-2026.

Trail Around Rose City Golf Course

Jenna Stathopoulos from Portland Parks Bureau reported the design process for this trail is on hold after the recent departure of the Project Manager. The trail is now known as the Bristlecone Pine ADA Improvement Project. You can sign up for updates on the project at [Bristlecone Pine Trail ADA Improvement Project \(smartsheet.com\)](https://smartsheet.com). When the project restarts, one of the first tasks will be a community open house for the public to see the overall project proposal and an early draft of the design or design options that will be explored. We will keep neighbors updated.

Halsey Project

The schedule for the project, which changes Halsey from four lanes to two lanes and a center turn lane from 47th to 60th, has slipped again. Tri-Met is hoping to take the project to bid in the next few months which would push the construction start to early 2024. We will try and keep neighbors informed of the specific dates when we know more.

64th and Brazee/Sacramento

Removal of the “candlesticks” is complete at this intersection and new concrete planters have been installed. This is a significant improvement over PBOT’s original design and a result of extensive discussions with PBOT, this committee and neighbors. Planting will be coordinated by neighbors in the spring.





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ONE TAIL AT A TIME IS A PET PROJECT

BY ALEX BAIMBRIDGE, 5TH GRADER AT BEVERLY CLEARLY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

One Tail at a Time is a dog adoption center and community space that just opened. Recently, I sat down with April Saban (pictured with me at right) at the new animal rescue on Sandy Blvd in Rose City Park. After adopting her dog, Oats, from OTAT she began volunteering. Now she works full-time as the Community Engagement Manager. She gave me a tour of the establishment before it officially opened in December 2023.

One Tail at a Time (OTAT) rescues between 100 to 200 dogs a year by placing them into an adopted family, but in 2020 they really peaked by rescuing 360 dogs. In 2020 because of Covid, people couldn't go out with family or friends, so while they were stuck at home 360 households decided to adopt a pet companion from One Tail at a Time. Over the years, OTAT has officially rescued 1,750 dogs, 11 kittens, and one pig. A pig?! Did it think it was a dog or something?! Now that pig gets to have a good life too because all animals deserve to have a good home.



The building is very spacious and has lots of different rooms. When the dogs first arrive in Portland (they are rescued from all over the country) they go to a wellness room where they get checked by a vet. When a dog gets rescued, they get to sit on a couch in front of a sign that says, "Welcome to the Good Life!" When you go inside you'll see eight giant photos of dog rescue success stories. One dog was living under a chair in a junkyard in Texas.

There are lots of ways to volunteer with OTAT, such as dog grooming, working on the gratitude or photography team, or doing graphic design, and if you go to their website you'll see all the different ways you can help. If you're not ready to fully commit to an animal, you can foster one until it finds its forever home. The best thing about being in a building is that people can stop by to meet the dogs in person. I

recently got a new kitten named Mr. Mabel who I love very much. We also have two dogs who I love too. Stop by and visit OTAT and if you adopt a dog you can welcome them to the good life! Their website is <https://otatpdx.org/>.

Alex is 11 years old and a 5th grader at Beverly Clearly School. He likes to do makeup, acrylic nails, and write. He's been writing since he was in third grade and doesn't plan on stopping!



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Revisting Normandale Tragedy

BY NICK PUTNAM, BOARD MEMBER

In 2022 there was a horrific incident near Normandale Park where a local resident shot several traffic control volunteers as they began staging a march for justice honoring Patrick Kimmons and Amir Locke. June Knightly (nicknamed T-Rex), 60 years old, was killed, a young woman was left paralyzed, and three others were wounded. The shooter pleaded guilty and was sentenced to life in prison in 2023.

This Feb. 19 will mark the second anniversary of the shooting. As the date approaches, an investigative article and video documentary by an international human rights organization will be presented at the Portland Institute of Contemporary Art beginning Feb. 23. An exhibit exploring the tragedy will continue at PICA.

A memorial of planters and photos of June Knightly has been installed at the corner of Hassalo and NE 55th avenue by volunteers to remember and honor the victims and survivors. The City of Portland may consider installing a permanent memorial near the site, but it is City policy to wait until at least three years after an event to begin the process. A painted street mural is also possible and could be in the works this year.

Rose City Park Neighborhood Association Board members continue to be in contact with shooting survivors, neighbors, and City bureau representatives to provide space for discussion and facilitate in any way that is helpful. To contact the caretakers of the current memorial directly, you may email Normandalesurvivors@proton.me.



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RCPNA General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 27 2024- 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

In-Person Public Meeting (opens at 6:45 p.m.)

Location: [German American Society, 5626 NE Alameda Street](#)

Agenda

700-7:05 p.m., Welcome

7:05-8:20 p.m., Sandy Boulevard: History, Today, and the Future

8:20-8:30 p.m., Rose City Park Neighborhood Association Events of 2024

8:30-9 p.m., RCPNA Committee Reports, community announcements

All neighborhood meetings are public meetings open to all

RCPNA CALENDAR

All RCPNA meetings are open to the public. Meetings are 7-9 pm unless otherwise noted.

Feb. 22, Communications Committee (virtual)	May 28, General Membership Meeting
Feb. 27, General Membership Meeting	June 4, Board of Directors
March 5, Board of Directors	June 27, Communications Committee (virtual)
March 28, Communications Committee (virtual)	July 9, Board of Directors
April 2, Board of Directors	July 25, Communications Committee (virtual)
May 23, Communications Committee (virtual)	Aug. 6, Board of Directors

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