



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS Richmond

|| SUMMER 2021 ISSUE | 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

Dear Richmond Neighbors and Friends,

I hope you are all doing well, and that the city will be post-COVID by the time this reaches you.

Our Richmond Neighborhood Association has been meeting throughout the pandemic via Zoom and we have hosted many guests and had lively conversations around Land Use, Diesel Emissions, Parking Permit pilot programs and much more.

We will continue to meet via Zoom until it is deemed appropriate for us to meet in person once again. On that note, we will be hosting our in-person meetings at a different location than the one we used to meet before the pandemic. The new meeting location will be at the Central Christian Church, 1844 SE Cesar E. Chavez Boulevard.

We hope you will join us for our upcoming meetings via Zoom. We meet at 6:30 PM the second Monday of the month, except in January. Everyone is welcome!

We also have a table set up at the Hawthorne Farmer Market on Tuesdays between 3-7 PM through September 28 once a month. It takes place at the Central Christian Church parking lot. Please drop by and say hello!

Wishing you a safe and happy summer!

Kind Regards,

/Debby Hochhalter

Chair

Richmond Neighborhood Association

A Message from the RNA Newsletter Editor

The 2021 summer edition comes to you on the heels of several significant events. Among the most important were those related to the Covid pandemic and local ambient temperatures. After achieving a vaccination rate considered to be close for “herd immunity,” we all saw the beginning of a return to pre-pandemic life with the lifting of some restrictions. Unfortunately, we are back to discussing going back to some restrictions because of the emergence of a new infection wave.

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TO GET MEETING AGENDAS AND NOTICES
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Oregon and much of the Northwestern US have also experienced a heat wave with record-setting temperatures. Sadly, as of this writing, as a direct result of the heat wave 54 people died in our county out of the 116 who died in Oregon (46.5%). Most climate scientists attribute the excessive heat phenomenon to the global warming phenomenon. They warn that unless the process is halted these high temperatures will likely become the new normal.

Through all this, the RNA continued with its task to make sure that residents have a forum with the opportunity to voice their opinions and participate in activities that improve their quality of life. This requires being organized in a way that only a committed and officially- recognized neighborhood association can facilitate.

As with the past newsletter edition, the present one comes in two formats: printed and electronic. The printed one is a reduced format of the full electronic edition. Richmond neighbors will distribute the reduced printed format to homes. The full electronic format can be viewed at the RNA website www.pdx-richmond.org. Some articles in this edition have several pictures that I encourage you to see online that I could only post in the electronic format. I encourage you to log in to see them.

I hope you find this edition of the RNA newsletter informative and interesting.

Simon Kipersztok

RNA’s Summer Movie in Sewallcrest Park cancelled again this summer by Allen Field

The RNA’s summer movie has again been cancelled. For 11 years the RNA has put on a free movie event in Sewallcrest Park in August.

Last year’s movie, Hidden Figures, was scheduled to be shown in August with an exciting group of science-related organizations for kids to provide information and demonstrations. But that was cancelled due to the pandemic. Portland Parks & Recreation has informed us this year that its Summer Free For All event, with free movies and concerts all summer, has again been cancelled. We hope to show the film next summer.

Editor's note: Some of the articles in this publication include relevant and important hyperlinks that can only be accessed through the newsletter electronic edition posted at the RNA website. I encourage you all to check them out at <https://richmondpx.org/>

Falling Flat on Your Face

by Jerry Lanz

Urban Wildfire and Smoke Readiness Summer 2021

by Amanda Westervelt

Richmond Neighborhood Emergency Team

After a dry spring and as we anticipate some intense early summer heat, it's clear that preparing for wildfires *right now* is a very good idea. Between the [Eagle Creek Fire of 2017](#) and the [wildfires](#), and [terrible air quality of last summer](#), we are acutely aware of the dangers these fires pose to Oregon and its population.

There is a LOT of good information out there on wildfire and smoke preparedness. I'm going to point you to some information I think is particularly useful, but there's a lot more at [Public Alerts](#) and [Ready.gov](#). When wildfire season hits, you can check [Air Quality Indexes](#) here. Detailed fire information (and really fun, interactive maps) can be found at [AirNow's website](#), and fire details are also available at [InciWeb's](#) site. For immediate notifications in the Portland / Vancouver area for wildfire or any emergency, sign up for [PublicAlerts](#).

But let's get specific. It's critical for us to be prepared for smoke. If the air is bad, you can wear an N95 mask, but fabric COVID face masks are NOT good at filtering smoke! [Here's more about keeping out smoke with masks](#). You can also buy air cleaners / purifiers, and here are [some tips for how to choose an air cleaning device](#). You can also [make your own air filtering system](#) using a box fan, a furnace filter, and duct tape!

You'll also want to make sure you have basic needs on hand, so you don't need to gather them during an air quality emergency or evacuation. This includes water, food, flashlights, and medicines for home and go kits; plus critical documents, shelter, first aid kit supplies, flashlights, etc. if you're evacuating. Supply lists for home and to go can be found at [Ready.gov](#) and . And don't forget to [prepare for your pets!](#)

Given Richmond is pretty urban and doesn't have significant wildland edges, the risk of mass wildfire evacuation is pretty low for us. However, [here](#) (hyperlink) is additional general evacuation information from [Ready.gov](#) and specific [Multnomah County Get Ready. Be Set. Go](#) evacuation levels and what to do to be prepared before and during each one. This [Wildland Fire Action Guide](#) provides great information, too; especially if your property is faced with the risk of wildfire and you may need to defend your home or be prepared to evacuate.

This knowledge can prepare us for wildfire season. As always, when you prepare for natural disasters of any sort, educate yourself, [make a plan](#), and prepare your supplies. Here (hyperlink) is a [fill-in-the-blank emergency plan](#) to help you get some basics squared away, like if your household is separated, where will you meet? Do you have an out-of-state contact?

Finally, if you like details and data, here's the [National Interagency Fire Center's June Fire Outlook report](#).

Cheers all, and here's to your health, preparedness, and resilience!

On daily walks in my SE neighborhood, I carefully walk over and around the many cracks in sidewalks. Possibilities for tripping are numerous, but I've only stumbled a few times, never falling. Many residents haven't been so lucky. Several years ago, an elderly woman walking through the neighborhood near Cleveland High School tripped on a bump in the sidewalk and died two weeks later, which spurred an \$825,000 wrongful death lawsuit against the homeowner. https://www.oregonlive.com/portland/2014/05/63500_lawsuit_filed_by_man_inj.html. Yes, that is a horrible outcome but a necessary reminder of the danger of these tripping hazards.

You may wonder, like I did, who owns the sidewalks in front of your home. The city owns the sidewalks but Portland City Code 17.28.020 states that property owner(s) are responsible for "maintaining and repairing the sidewalks... abutting or immediately adjacent" to their property. It further states that the "property owner(s) shall be liable for any and all damages to any person who is injured or otherwise suffers damage resulting from the defective condition" of their sidewalk.

So, what can you do to keep your sidewalk safe? You can attempt the repairs yourself or hire a contractor skilled in sidewalk repair. City of Portland Sidewalk Inspectors are available to meet with property owners to discuss repair options. A permit is required for most sidewalk work. Further information is available by visiting <https://www.portland.gov/transportation/permitting/sidewalk-repair>, calling the city office at (503) 823-1711, or emailing sidewalkrepair@portlandoregon.gov.

Sidewalk Maintenance Standards

1. Trip hazard

Sidewalks will be cited for repair when there is a vertical step separation equal to or greater than 1/2".



2. Openings or cracks

Sidewalks will be cited for repair when openings or holes in the sidewalk equal or exceed 1/2".



3. Spalling Sidewalks

Sidewalks will be cited for repair when the sidewalk surface is chipped or deteriorated to a depth equal or greater than 1/2".



Six Richmond Neighborhood Murals

by Rin Carroll Jackson

The mural art landscape in Richmond has seen quite a change since the late 1990's and early 2000's. Specifically, murals in Portland have had a rich and interesting history. During the 1990s, when I arrived in Portland, artists arranged with building owners to paint available walls with no fees or permits. It was a spirited creative time for public art. As detailed in "Painting Murals" (<http://www.pdxstreetart.org/how-to-paint-a-mural-in-portland>). "In 1998, the City of Portland was thrust into a lengthy and complicated legal battle..." A large company owning most of the billboards in Portland sued the city, based on first amendment rights, for placing limitations on the size of billboards while exempting artistic murals from those restrictions. The court ruled in favor of the company resulting in the city considering murals and billboards as if they were the same.

Conducting an internet search using the terms "Clear Channel vs. City of Portland" or "muralist Joe Cotter and Portland Mural Defense," will uncover the turbulent times Portland muralists faced in the early 2000's. Cotter's unrelenting demand for muralists' voices to be part of the lengthy trial was vital for the changes artists were seeking. Sadly, Joe's battle with cancer ended and he died in 2012 after completing his most detailed and final mural in the Buckman Neighborhood on SE Morrison at SE 12th. He is greatly honored by many and deeply missed.

The site "Painting Murals" continues: "Thanks to the dedicated efforts of a handful of art advocates who pushed for the art of mural-making to be recognized, in 2005, the Regional Arts & Culture Council (RACC) began its Public Art Mural Program. In 2009... the City of Portland's new mural program was created." The new program established regulations and fees that are required before a mural can be painted.

On this matter, I spoke with a long-time mural advocate who pointed out that creation of the Public Art Mural Program, was merely a way to charge a fee to get a mural permit. In this presentation I will focus on six Richmond murals painted from 2003-2017.

First Mural

Artist: Rin Carroll Jackson

Mural Title: Creating Community

Location: 2440 SE Cesar E. Chavez Blvd. **Year:** 2003



Prior to the creation of the Public Art Mural Program, I painted a 10' x 72' mural that has been grandfathered as art wall. In 2003 the classification indicated that by painting roses in each corner of where a previous mural existed it could be replaced with another mural. The mural being replaced, due to deterioration, titled Richmond Neighborhood by Barbara Johnstone was originally painted by neighborhood volunteers in 1984 on the Keinow's Grocery Store. My design was selected from 4 finalists in a contest initiated by the Division/Clinton Business Association in conjunction with Metro Murals and Rite Aid. With a small team of artists I utilized the gridding technique and painted preliminary black outlines with the vision of the mural's name 'Creating Community'. A weekend event involved over 40 volunteers whose names appear on the mural and each stepped up to the wall with cups of paint to fill in the design. A final enhancement of all the black lines was followed by adding a protective clear coat. It has been a long road to restore the mural after multiple tagging incidents and currently the wall's surface needs attention after 18 years.

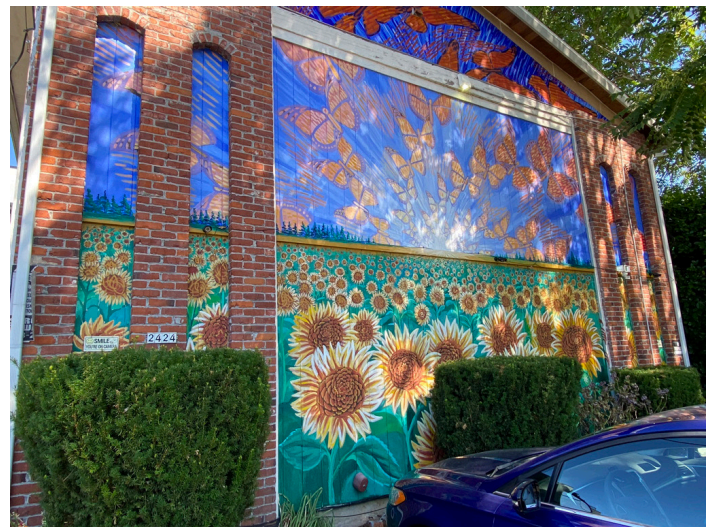
Second Mural

Artist: Hector Hernandez

Mural Title: Urban Wellness Mural & Monarca Sunrise

Location: 4900 SE Division St. & 2424 SE 49th Ave.

Year: 2009 & 2010



Hector Hernandez, who has been painting murals in Oregon since 1995, painted 2 adjacent murals at SE Division and 49th. The Urban Wellness mural enhances the west facing wall of an alternative health business and depicts a landscape view with vibrant symbolic imagery of wellness, change, strength, and hope. The distinctive monarch butterflies connect to the next mural, Monarca Sunrise, to provide an expanse of color that is integrated into the urban landscape. The murals are included on the RACC website which describes further: "In this way the use of butterflies in this mural reinforces the metaphor of transformation at the dawn of a new day, and the wellness that such a new day could bring."

Third Mural

Artist: Jeff “Weirdo” Jacobson

Mural Title: Untitled

Location: 3630 SE Division St. (alleyway)

Year: 2014



After reaching out to Seattle artist Jeff Jacobson, I learned that he does not have a title for his alleyway mural at 3630 SE Division St. Utilizing his distinctive spray can technique, he created his mural in October of 2014. His website states: “With 20 years of spray painting knowledge and experience, Weirdo has developed a style of ‘Post-internet Hyper-realism’. Combining dynamic figurative subjects and the influence of science, technology, and spirituality.” Jeff’s work can be seen in various locations in Seattle. The web article www.capitol-hillseattle.com states, “mostly, Weirdo’s murals are celebrated for their mix of intense, beyond real colors and photo realistic depictions of his subjects.”

Fourth Mural

Artist: Robin Corbo

Mural Title: Bark Mural

Location: 4601 SE Powell Blvd.

Year: 2011



Robin Corbo is an established muralist who has been working on walls in Portland since 2006. Her BARK mural is one of 4 pieces in which she has partnered with non-profits based on their mission statements. Robin conveys on her blog that her 20’ x 100’ mural “was designed by a group of BARK staff and volunteers through a brainstorming session that I facilitated. I executed the mural with a staff of 5 muralists and over 35 volunteers.” BARK’s mission (<https://www.bark-out.org/content/about-bark>) is to transform Mt. Hood National Forest into a place where natural processes prevail, where wildlife thrives and

where local communities have a social, cultural, and economic investment in its restoration and preservation. Robin’s expansive and detailed piece focuses on her interest in forest activism and the collaborative approach aligns with her desire to paint with groups who share a common vision.

Fifth Mural

Artist: Lynn Takata

Mural Title: Japanese Culture 4 Panel Tile Mosaic

Location: 2276 SE 41st Ave.

Year: 2009



Lynn Takata is nationally known for her participatory artwork with youth and her love of this is evident in the wonderful mosaic tile and clay mural featuring the theme of Japanese Culture. The installation of the four ceramic panel pieces resulted from the collaborative participation of Pre-K through 5th grade Japanese Immersion classes. Small teams specifically designed the mural based on the traditions and festivals about which they were studying. Lynn, as a sculptor herself, directed the project and dozens of volunteers helped mount and then grout the mural to the Richmond Elementary school on SE 41st. Her website states, “participants create their own designs, and she choreographs these elements as the design develops. It is a dynamic and exciting improvisational process that creates meaningful public spaces.” The intricate, 14-foot-tall season-themed panels are each about 4 feet across and are spaced artistically across the tan brick wall facing a residential street.

Sixth Mural (next page)

Artists: Patricia Vasquez, José Gonzalez and Eric Ssonko.

Created by Lapiztola - #MLKworkerscenter

Mural Title: Part of larger project by Voz Workers’ Rights Education Project called ‘Working Makes Me Important.’

Location: 3734 SE Division St.

Year: 2017

The information I gathered was included in the site-
<https://audubonportland.org/blog/bird-murals-the-many-birds-of-portlands-street-art/> and titled “Birds on Do It Best Hardware,” by Ali Berman. Lapiztola Oaxaca, an art collective in Mexico,



created the art for this vibrant mural painted by local members of the MLK Worker’s Center and is themed around social justice. Another collaborative experience involved the efforts of Voz Workers’ Rights Education Project, the only organization of its kind in Oregon, focused on the empowerment of diverse day laborers. The worker-led VOZ tackles the vital work of organizing, civil rights, leadership development and opportunity enhancement. Painters Patricia Vasquez, José Gonzalez and Eric Ssonko teamed up on the mural that is part of a larger project called “Working Makes Me Important”. Anyone interested in further information and supporting the cause can find more at www.artrepresent.com/lapiztola.

The spirit of murals in Portland, although now regulated by RACC and requiring a fee and permit stands strong in our urban landscape. I encourage the reader to walk or bike the blocks to experience these local murals firsthand. By stepping up to the walls within the borders of our district from SE 28th - SE 52nd & SE Hawthorne Blvd. - SE Powell Blvd. you can go on an inspiring historical tour of murals in Richmond.

Further resources:

[Public Art Murals Program: As Adopted Report](#) — December 8, 2004.

[In Defense Of Art](http://indefenseofart.blogspot.com/) <http://indefenseofart.blogspot.com/> History 2005-07.

[Painting Murals — Portland Street Art Alliance](#) (pdxstreetart.org) current mural information.

[Public Art Murals Program | Regional Arts and Culture Council](#)

(racc.org) current mural information.

Rin Carroll Jackson has been living and freelancing in Portland since 1990, She is the owner of RCJ Art Endeavors, LLC 2003. She is the current Sleeping Bee Studio ARTIST IN RESIDENCE and specializes in art, design, batik, and murals. She was the Founder & Co-organizer of SE Area ART Walk (<https://seareaartwalk.wordpress.com/>), a local event that ran from 2004-2019 featuring approximately 80 artists showcased on the first weekend of March displaying and selling their art at indoor locations. She is thankful for the opportunity to organize the event for 15 great years!

Website: www.rinzart.com

Contact information: rinzart@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Sleeping-Bee-STUDIO-188694957480/> Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/rincarrolljackson/>

Barricades available to rent for block parties and street closures

by Allen Field

The RNA has 2 sets of barricades and signs that it rents out for block parties and street closures for a minimal battery fee of \$5. A \$350 returnable-deposit is required to guarantee their return. It is best to reserve them at least 4 weeks before your event since this summer’s block parties will likely resume in earnest, so don’t wait til the last minute. Contact allen_field@yahoo.com to reserve a set.

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People in the Neighborhood

by Simon Kipersztok

Sam Lucas Scherer is a friendly door greeter at the Fred Meyer on Hawthorne Blvd. He usually stands at the entrance of the store facing the parking lot and pleasantly waves to all those coming in to do their shopping. Since I moved to Richmond in 2017 Sam caught my attention by his friendliness and especially by his consistently unique and elegant style of dress.

Having recently retired from a professional career that required me to wear a daily business attire with a tie, I welcomed giving up the formality of my clothing for more casual and comfortable clothes, mainly t-shirts, sweatpants, and flannel shirts. Since arriving I had been under the impression that here in Portland nobody cares how others dress and one may even be complimented when an outfit “keeps Portland weird.” Yet Sam earned my admiration because of his courteous and amiable demeanor, and consistent elegance of his clothes.

Recently, while visiting the store, I decided to get to know Sam a little better. I introduced myself and inquired if I can ask him a few questions that could be published in the Richmond newsletter. He graciously agreed and even told me that the local channel 8 had interviewed him three times in the last few years.

Sam is a native of Oregon who has been a door greeter for Fred Meyer during the last 11 years. He commented that the best part of his job is to make sure that every shopper feels welcome when entering the store. In fact, while I was talking to him, he never stopped saying hello or waiving his hand to all those entering the store, and there were many that Sam greeted by their first name. He said that his job is “pretty cool” and that he has gotten to know some frequent shoppers personally. He stated that he likes it when shoppers introduce themselves to him, as I did.

Being so impressed by his friendly disposition and how nicely shoppers respond to his greeting, I asked him if his exchanges with customers are always pleasant. He shared that over the years he has been at his job there have been very few bad exchanges, usually by rare angry customers complaining about something that had nothing to do with his job and he then had to refer them to the store manager. Overall, Sam feels that Fred Meyer has been a great place to work and that he is fortunate the company treats him very well.

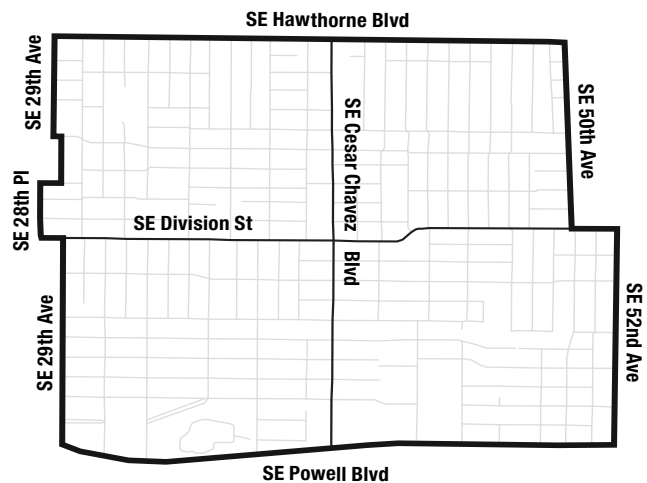
In his free time Sam likes to hike, draw, and keep his house neat. He enjoys cooking and his best dish is spaghetti. I felt compelled to ask him if anyone helps him with his clothes shopping. He answered that he shops for his clothes alone. Where does he get his stylish clothes? At Goodwill, Salvation Army, hand-me-downs and online.

Since my retirement I have needed to dress up infrequently and cannot remember when the last time was that I wore a tie. On several occasions, I have complimented Sam on his clothing and once I jokingly told him that I was going to ask him to help me choose my clothes next time I needed new ones to dress elegantly. He was agreeable to the proposition and next time I need to dress up for a special occasion I might take him up on it.

Sam L. Scherer at the entrance of the Fred Meyer Supermarket



Richmond Boundaries



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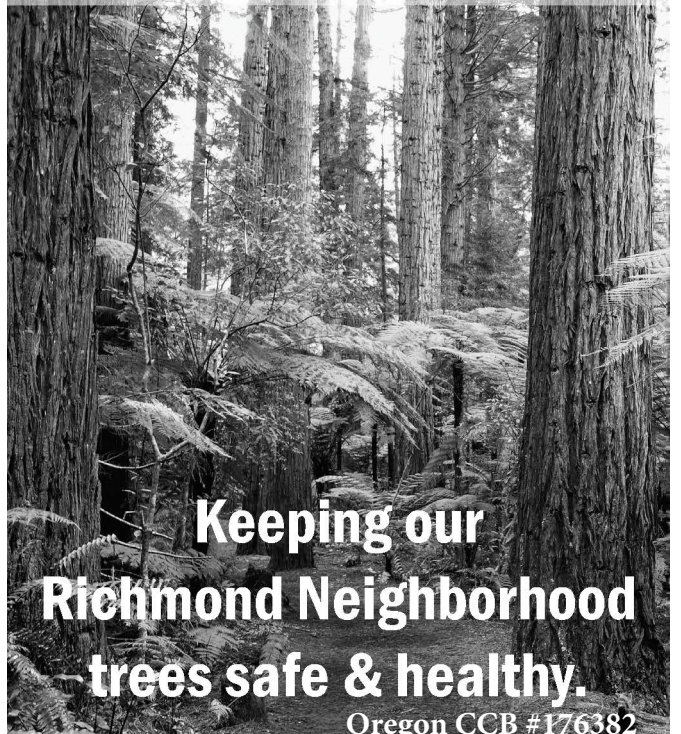


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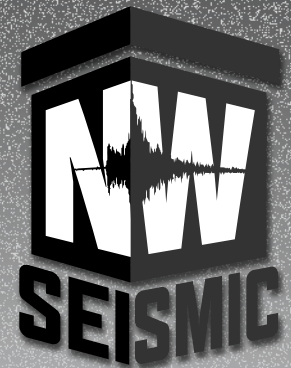
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