

Riverwood Homeowners Association

Newsletter

December, 2023

Committee News

Landscape Committee: Any Landscape problems or questions from Dec 1 - Jan 10th, please contact your Driveway Representative or Stressla Beavers. Thank you & **Happy Holidays** to you and yours!

Newsletter Committee: In an effort to cut down on volunteer time and expenses, the Newsletter Committee will no longer be printing and delivering hard copies to Residents, beginning in January. Instead, we are now putting a copy in the Rec Room in a binder. We are suggesting that those who previously received a hard copy of the newsletter delivered to them: 1) ask a neighbor to print the newsletter for you or 2) read the newsletter in hard copy format in the Rec Room. Please do not remove this copy from the Rec Room, as it is there for all Riverwood Residents to read. **This new policy will begin with the January issue.** Thank you for your patience as we move to a more sustainable process with the newsletter.

Recreation Committee: The Rec committee is planning to have a **Game Afternoon, Sunday, January 14th at 2PM!** We can use the games that live at the Rec Room or bring your own. (If there is enough interest, we will continue with this activity on the 2nd Sunday each month at 2PM.)

Also, please bring your RINSED, returnable cans & plastic bottles for the Landscape Fund!!

Decorating the Rec Room for the holidays was done recently. Special thanks to the Volunteers who showed up and added some sparkle to the room: (on right) (L to R) Lynn Young, Carol Hardy, Barb Ascher, Shirley Piel, Kazumi Erickson and Jann Gilbert taking photos!



(on left) Here is a photo of the November Potluck Social! Good times!



Are you looking for a way to begin volunteering at Riverwood? Well, look no farther: the Recreation Committee is looking for you! New volunteers bring new ideas and both are welcome to help spice up the social life here at RW. Contact the Recreation Chair for more information (see the RW Roster).

Website Committee: Visit RiverwoodPDX.org for news and information about the RW community. To join the Residents Only access, notify Web@RiverwoodPDX.org for details.



Welcome Committee: Attached to this month's newsletter you will find updated rosters. Welcome to Riverwood's newest owner: Naomi Graham. For those of you who do not have printers and are wanting a paper copy of the roster, please reach out to Lisa Dashiell, 503-293-6861, or email rw.h.welcome@gmail.com to request a paper copy. Call or text is fine when using the phone number.

Riverwood is a self governed community. That means community volunteers are needed to keep Riverwood running smoothly. A full complement of volunteers lightens the load on all the committees. **Having volunteer**

needs met also helps to keep our HOA fee lower, as we do not have to hire an outside property management company. There are 9 volunteers needed to fill our committee needs. These are noted on the BOD/Committees/Driveway roster. If you have yet to volunteer, please take a look at our needs and contact the committee chair to convey your willingness to help. Attached you will find a listing of volunteer opportunities with links to the Riverwood website so you can explore where your skills may be best used.



Maintenance Committee: The Maintenance Committee is still looking for someone to coordinate the work done by Mace Lopez's company (for new Residents, Mace [pronounced Mah-say] is the handyman that keeps Riverwood running, guided by Jim Eveland's expertise as an engineer). With Jim retiring from the Committee, the Board is looking for someone to work with Mace and:

- A. Track expenditures to budget; use this data and, in coordination with Leo Zinn / Budget Committee, build the next year's budget.
- B. Work with Mace to establish schedule and priorities.
- C. Intercept communications, requests, complaints, etc from Residents; sort them for propriety; assign the right ones to Mace, respond to the Resident on the others.
- D. In cases of emergency, ask for help (from Jim) to calculate the priorities, make the inhouse vs. vendor decision, inform the Residents of what's happening, and manage the crisis until a return to normal. This help should be available for at least the next two years.
- E. Report to the Board and community.

Please see the November Newsletter for a more detailed Position Description. Contact Jim or someone on the Board to express interest or ask for more information. **Remember, if we can keep this position "in house" we will save thousands of dollars per year!**

The next Board Meeting is Thursday, January 11th at 6:30 PM in the Recreation Room!!

From the Residents

Send your feedback, ideas, recipes, pet photos, etc. to rwh.news@gmail.com.

From Elise: As winter approaches, we can all do our part to prevent pipe leaks and bursts as the temperature drops. Now is a good time to insulate outdoor spigots, or use the shutoff, if you have one. If you need help insulating, I am available to help to the best of my abilities. Elise Morgan 808-497-8565

From Jim: Would the person who took the new, boxed set of "Double-Twelve" dominoes from the Rec Room please return them? They are not for borrowing.



Winter Solstice is December 21st!!

Also called: Midwinter; the Shortest Day; the Longest Night. **Celebrations:** Festivals, spending time with loved ones, feasting, singing, dancing, fires. **Significance:** Astronomically marks the beginning of lengthening days and shortening nights.

Looking for Something?

Outdoor Plants Wanted for Spring: When you divide your bulbs or dig up a bush you no longer want, please consider whether this plant could grace the common area flower beds of Riverwood! If you have a plant to donate, you can contact your Landscape Committee Driveway Representative (see the roster) to check if Riverwood can use your plant!! Thanks for your help in beautifying Riverwood!

Resources

From Portland General Electric: Are you prepared for a power outage? Make sure you have an outage kit ready and know what steps to take.

1. Update your contact info on your PGE account so they can send you text alerts in the event of an outage.
2. Create a storm outage kit: Gather what you'll need and make sure everyone in the house knows where to find it. Here are a few basic items, and you'll find [a more robust checklist here](#): Flashlights or headlamps, Battery-powered or hand-crank radio and clock or watch, Extra batteries, Car chargers for cell phones, laptops and/or tablets, Bottled water for people and animals (if you rely on electricity to pump water), Emergency phone numbers, including PGE Customer Service: 503-228-6322. Our customer service advisors can assist you in 200+ languages.
3. Make a plan: These days, it's smart to prepare for those "once in a decade" weather events that seem to be happening more and more often. Plan for household needs and gather what you'll need to stay warm, fed and comfortable for several days. The outage kit checklist has a [planning checklist](#), but you can start here for the basics:
 - Know where you'll go: Plan ahead to relocate with a friend, family member or to a shelter, especially if you have a medical condition that requires electricity or you'll need to work or learn from home
 - Plan for feeding and watering pets or livestock, if well pumps don't have power
 - Consider buying a backup generator and follow manufacturers' guidelines for its safe operation
 - Get more information from [the Red Cross and Ready.gov](#)
4. [Plan for medical needs](#): see the info at this link if you use powered medical equipment. Plan for medical needs so you can still power medical equipment during an outage.
 - Enroll in our [Medical Certificate program](#), this lets us know where there are critical needs so we can proactively communicate with you about outages.
 - Plan ahead to relocate with a friend, family member or to a shelter if needed.
 - Consider buying a backup generator and follow manufacturers' guidelines for its safe operation.

From the City of Portland: Check out their webpage <https://www.portland.gov/water/prepare-winter> for lots of info on protecting your plumbing during winter freezes.

Coming Neighborhood Events

Through December 30th - [The Grotto Festival of Lights](#). Tickets: \$16-18 dollars at the gate

Neighborhood News

Local advocates challenge city approval of freight warehouse at former Kmart site: December 19, 2023 (Portland, Ore): 1000 Friends of Oregon, Neighbors for Clean Air, and Northwest Environmental Defense Center filed a legal challenge today to the building permits for the controversial Prologis freight warehouse slated for construction on the former Kmart site at NE 122nd and Sandy in Portland, taking their appeal to the



Land Use Board of Appeals. The site directly abuts apartment buildings and is within walking and rolling distance of multiple schools, including Parkrose High School, Parkrose Middle School, and Shaver Elementary School. The petitioners are represented by Crag Law Center.

The city approved the permits without conducting any impact analyses or addressing community concerns regarding safety, health, and quality-of-life impacts

with meaningful and enforceable protections. “Students, families, and people living in the surrounding neighborhoods have repeatedly asked the city to properly investigate how the development of this distribution center will impact their health and safety. NCA believes the city has the ability to provide one, and the community deserves to know,” said Nakisha Nathan, co-executive director for Neighbors for Clean Air.

The legal challenge follows numerous attempts since fall 2022 to work in good faith with the City of Portland to support the surrounding communities’ vision for this space. Freight warehouses pose dangers for the nearby residents and students, and bring pollution and environmental and social justice effects on communities, all of which have been well-documented.

“The city failed to apply its code or utilize its own environmental justice and equity goals laid out in its 2035 Comprehensive Plan, instead approving the construction of a massive freight warehouse in an already environmentally overburdened community,” said Rebeka Dawit, Crag Law Center attorney who represents the groups. She continued, “The neighboring community, local school district, Neighbors for Clean Air, 1000 Friends of Oregon, and NEDC have been advocating for the city to acknowledge and rectify the local community’s concerns about the potential diesel pollution, noise, exacerbation of urban heat islands, and increased semi-truck traffic since 2022. Issuing this building permit despite these real, valid concerns from the community is an outright failure on behalf of the city to apply its own environmental justice and equity initiatives.”

From the 1000 Friends of Oregon website. Read the complete article at:

<https://friends.org/news/2023/12/press-release-local-advocates-challenge-city-approval-freight-warehouse-former-kmart>

REMEMBER: Newsletter articles, ads, etc. are due by Noon, on the 20th. Send to: rwh.news@gmail.com

Thanks to those who contributed to this month’s newsletter: Shirley Piel, Bill Neville, Lisa Dashiell, Jim Eveland, Elise Morgan, Jessy (ATNA View newsletter), PGE, 1000 Friends of Oregon!!

And a big thank you to our faithful delivery people: **Stressla Beavers, Sue Beede, Nancy Stoll and Mary Yemane!**