



The Eastside
Village VOICE

October 2020



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IT'S TIME ONCE AGAIN TO "GIVE LOCALLY"

Most of Eastside Village's Members are retired, and as such, have been much less likely to have been affected financially by the economic ravages of COVID-19. All of us know or are related to many who have had their lives upended by un- or underemployment. The coming holiday/gift-giving season is going to be especially hard for them.

The last two years Cary Hixon has informally asked members of Eastside Village to support kids who are in foster care in Portland's Eastside. She was astounded at the generosity of our members, so this year the Governing Council has decided to support her efforts and make it an official Eastside Village project [see cover photo of gifts and Dept. of Human Services (DHS) caseworkers]. Your Governing Council thought this was a perfect project for our Village as a whole.

Cary provides more information about the project here and we hope you can find a way to take part. She also passed along information about another program that you might consider. You will find more about it on page 4.



My daughter is a caseworker for DHS in Portland's Eastside office and works with children in foster care. This is a tough time of year for everyone involved in the foster care system. Hearing her stories made me want to help.

A couple of years ago I decided to see if other Village People would like to join me and was overwhelmed at your generous response: Thanks to \$725 donated by Eastside Village, every teen in foster care in Portland's Eastside got a gift card, which for many of them was *all* they got. That was a pretty big accomplishment for us and we should be proud.

In addition to cash donations, several members chose to purchase and donate toys, books, and clothing. We laid all the items we

collected on a huge table (see cover photo) and it was completely covered. It was a joy to watch the caseworkers "shop" for their kiddos.

Some EV Members chose to sponsor an entire family. In fact, EV sponsored *one-third* of the families who requested help! Taking on an entire family is a big commitment, so many Members enlisted the help of other friends, family members, and neighbors.

I'd like to challenge us to do it again this year. So, in the spirit of tradition, I am asking for your help with our "third annual toy drive for kids in foster care" in Portland's Eastside. It's a great way to help families who need a little extra support this time of year and it keeps it local.

I asked my daughter to provide some guidance. Here are her suggestions:

▶▶ Every year, DHS partners with "Toys for Tots" to make sure every (younger) foster kid has at least one present to open on Christmas. But these gifts are *ONLY* for kids under 12, which means that we can't be sure older kids will get a gift at all. For the past few years we've been collecting gift cards for them: they have a gift to open *and* they can choose what they want from a store they like. Some favorites are Target, H&M, Nike, Adidas, etc. Local businesses are good too! Increments of \$25+ are best because it's hard to get something nice for less than that.

▶▶ If you'd rather give toys for younger kids, those are great too! Just make sure they're new. Foster kids get lots of hand-me-downs, but this time of year we're looking to give them something new. We had several Members who donated toys and also canvassed local businesses for additional toy donations.

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▶ Sponsor a foster family! Lots of foster families do a lot with very little all year round. Some are new foster parents, adjusting to life with a new child. Anyone with kids or grandkids knows how much that takes. Let's lighten their load a little.

If you (or your extended family) choose this option, we'll match you with a family and give you a list of things they really need/want. You can do as much as you can to help meet their requests; we don't expect you to provide it all.

Here are the rest of the details:

▶ Our EV deadline is Dec. 7th. We'll deliver everything to the DHS office near the Lloyd Center on Dec. 8th. Caseworkers will distribute to their families.

▶ Most of us won't get to write off these donations on our taxes, but if you plan to, please include your name, address, and the value of your gift and the caseworkers will send you a receipt.

▶ Drop-off is easy. We'll have two locations this year: one each on the north and south ends of our Village boundaries. Specific drop-off location addresses will be in next month's Newsletter. You can also call the office to arrange for a contact-free porch pick up. Please don't drop gift cards in the mail!

Please feel free to email/text/call me if you have any questions. Help us help make a child's Christmas a bit brighter!

*By Cary Hixon
EV Member*

HERE'S ANOTHER GREAT IDEA!

Feeling particularly generous this year? Cary also sent along this letter from Dierdre Cain, daughter of EV Member Leonard Cain, and a teacher in Portland Community College's (PCC) English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Program.

I know a lot is at stake this election year, so there are a lot of important causes and campaigns to contribute your dollars to, but I would like to add one more: Refugees and other immigrants who are seeking an education at PCC to better their lives and those of their family members. Remember: Education is the best investment ever!

Every term, the PCC ESOL Fund provides books (to keep or to borrow) and covers registration fees for our students most in need, the majority of whom come from working families but who can't spare any dollars for school. Class fees for our beginning and intermediate classes are \$110 and \$150 respectively, and textbooks tend to run \$30-\$45. These are expenses that would swamp most of our students' budgets.

I have been touched by so many stories, including one where two parents and two adult children in one family took turns taking classes at PCC, so they each got to take classes every 4th term. Then there are the untold number of students who take on a 2nd (or 3rd!) job so they can attend school. I can't imagine a more motivated, hard-working, and appreciative group of people than our ESOL students.

The ESOL Fund was started by and is being managed by ESOL instructors. Please consider donating! Any amount — even \$10 — would really help. Now is the time to donate because we have a donor who is matching the first \$50,000 donated to the PCC Foundation! Wheee!

Please do consider helping out! The refugees and other immigrants who work to make our communities better will thank you!

You can send your checks to: PCC Foundation, PO Box 19000, Portland OR 97280. Please write "ESOL Fund" on the memo line in the lower left corner.

*By Dierdre Cain
ESOL Instructor*

CIVICS 101: ALWAYS A GOOD IDEA

Do you want to learn (or learn more) about your city, county, and regional government? Interested in getting more civically involved, but not sure where to start? Then **Civics 101** is for you!

Offered in partnership with local governments and led by our own JoAnn Herrigel (former Deputy Director of Elders in Action), Senior Advocates for Generational Equity (SAGE) presents this 4-session Zoom training series that will help you understand the structure and operation of various levels of government, engage with elected officials, and learn to advocate for causes you believe in.

Over the course of the series, you will:

- Learn the basic elements of our local political system
- Hear directly from elected officials
- Learn how to advocate for issues of concern

Session #1: City of Gresham

Thursday, October 15, 1-3 pm

Speaker: Councilor Jerry W. Hinton

Session #2: Multnomah County

Thursday, October 22, 1-3 pm

Civics 101

Speaker: Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson

Session #3: Metro Regional Government

Friday, October 30, 1-3 pm

Speaker: Councilor Shirley Craddick

Session #4: Advocacy in Practice

Thursday, November 12, 1-3 pm

To register, go to [WeAreSAGE.org/civics101](https://www.wearesage.org/civics101) or contact Shanna Pittman Frank at SPFrank@wearesage.org.

RWV: “UNDERSTANDING MEDICARE” TALK

River West Village has graciously opened its upcoming “virtual salon” on Medicare to Members of the other Villages in the Villages NorthWest group. Please RSVP to [Heather Bryant](#).

[Please note: River West Village uses the GoToMeeting platform rather than Zoom. You will need to [download the app](#) to your device before the start of the meeting.]

[Understanding Medicare](#)

Wednesday, October 14, 12:30-1:30 pm

Are you confused by Medicare? Come to this informational presentation that will explain the various parts (A, B, C, D), the difference between supplemental and advantage plans, and more. Plus time for questions.

This presentation will be led by Jennifer Allain, the Insurance Coach, a US Army Veteran, who has spent the last 8 years helping individuals, seniors, families, and small business owners get health insurance that they can afford, understand, and use.

AUGUST GOVERNING COUNCIL MTG MINUTES

Lee Lancaster welcomed all present: Peg Farrell, Wendy Orloff, Lucien Dallaire, Craig Johnson, Jennifer Rockwood, and Judy Ringenson.

1) Approval of last month's minutes.

2) Council Reports and Discussion:

a) Circle of Representatives (Lee): The new Policy on Policy from Villages NW explicitly outlines how each Village is included in the development or revision of policies.

b) Volunteers (Jenny): We have 47 active volunteers of which 28 are not Members. (Craig): We will soon have video links to our websites. (Lee): The Mon Ami App for scheduling volunteers is being discussed by VNW.

c) Office Operations / Club Express (Jenny): There have been changes on how "Forum" works on Club Express. JoAnn Herrigel, Anne-Marie Dallaire, Jin Darney, and Deb Hekker have been volunteering consistently at the office.

d) Marketing / Outreach (Lucien): Four people attended the virtual 101 on Saturday, hosted by Peg and Lucien; one person later joined. The 101 presentations will continue on the 2nd Saturday in the month.

e) Membership (Lee): Eastside Village numbers are holding steady despite limitations

imposed by the pandemic.

f) Financial (Wendy): We are not falling behind financially. Wendy is scheduled to present a budget at the Fall Member Meeting.

g) Resource Development (Judy): The fall fundraising appeal will be centered on stories of how Villages have helped Members cope with the pandemic.

h) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Lee discussed how Meals on Wheels and similar

outreach projects could be a way to gain new Members and volunteers, as Helen Elder has suggested.

3) Old Business

a) The Emergency Information Vials have been distributed. Peg will write an article on this for the Newsletter.

b) Lee discussed the Villages NW Planning for Growth project.

c) Recruitment of new Council Members was discussed by Lucien and others. Lucien will interview Mary Beth Young; Peg will interview Marilyn Lipko, Lee will interview Marnie McPhee. They and Jim Houser and Liz Dally will be asked to submit a short bio and their reasons for wanting to be on the Council, together with a photo, to Peg for the newsletter by August 25th.

4) New Business

a) The Climate Crisis Crew and other Zoom meetings and get-togethers welcome volunteers, as well as Members.

b) Ten "log ins" will be possible in October on the Village to Village website.

c) State Rep. Rob Nosse contacted Jenny after reading "Eastside Village Works," the article she and Anne-Marie Dallaire wrote for the August issue of the SouthEast Examiner. He has offered to speak to our membership at the next Member Meeting.

The Next Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 9th, to be chaired by Wendy..

*Submitted by Judy Ringenson
Secretary, EV Governing Council*

CALLING ALL SANDY BRANCH MEMBERS!

Dress up in RED, WHITE, and BLUE, get out your ballot, and join your fellow Sandy Branchers!

You may have already made up your mind about the top of the ballot, but there are lots of other decisions to make. We'll discuss our options and pass along useful information.

Join your fellow Sandy Branch Members for a Zoom meeting on Thursday, Oct 8th, at 10:30 AM.

By Linda Safran



WHO'S UP FOR SOME HALLOWEEN FUN?



Ready to get spooked and silly? Join us for some All Hallows' Eve hijinks! Just make a Halloween themed mask, take a photo of it, and send it to Mary Beth Young (coordinator) by Wednesday, October 28.

The Halloween Mask Committee will choose the scariest, the funniest, and the most political. All masks will appear in the November EV Newsletter.

Now's the time to be brave, creative, silly, or scary. Check out Google, Pinterest, or Instagram for ideas – and let your imaginations go wild!

*By Mary Beth Young
EV Member*

WANTED: OLD TROPHIES

Do you have any old trophies hiding away in the back of the bookcase or in a box on the closet shelf? Halloween Mask Committee Coordinator Mary Beth Young would love to have them. She's going to repurpose them to use as prizes for the Halloween Mask Contest. Please contact Mary Beth directly.



CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER 2020

R = Register online or with office. MV = Attendance limited to Eastside Village Members or Volunteers.

Please note: ALL Eastside Village events will be held via the virtual Zoom online meeting platform. See the Events Calendar for each event's link.

2

RISE Circle Zoom Meeting

(R, MV) Join us for a discussion of different ways to carry on and stay in touch in our new world. Noon-2 pm.

2, 9, 16, 23, & 30

Coffee Hour

(MV) Join your friends and neighbors for coffee and conversation. 9:30-10:30 am.

5, 12, 19, & 26

Happy Hour

(MV) Share stories and chat with fellow EV Members and volunteers. 5 pm.

6, 13, & 20

Current Events Luncheon

(R, MV) Join us for lunch and a great discussion of the current events in our ever-changing landscape. 12-2 pm.

8

Sandy Branch Circle Meeting

(R, MV) Join us for a fun gathering. 10:30-2

10

Virtual EV 101

(R) Want to learn more about Eastside Village? Join a virtual introduction. Please sign in with the office to get the link. 10 am-12 pm.

13

EV Book Groups

(R, MV) Join your fellow EV book group Members for a virtual discussion of *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane* by Lisa See. 10—Noon.

15

Men's Lunch w/ Adult Beverages

(R, MV) Join the EV men for a hike/walk, bag lunch, and some social distanced conversation. 12-2 pm.

31

EV Climate Crisis Crew

(R, MV) Join us to share ideas, from small and energizing changes in how we live our lives, to what we can do together. Noon—2 pm.