

## Around The Town

### News from My Hometown Northwest

Fall 2025

We're in the homestretch for the year, and we've been busy. Just take a look.

**Oh, the games people play – (especially our youth).**

On August 21<sup>st</sup>, over 1000 chicken nuggets were served to hungry area youth who attended “Game Night” at West Point Park. As promised, games of all kinds were played. “Such a good time” was a phrase that was repeated often.

Thanks to Doug and Becky Farley for once again bringing our bright young people together. Unfortunately, this very dynamic duo is waving goodbye to MHT after almost three years of dedicated service. They say they have loved every minute, and that is evident in how much they have accomplished! To say they will be missed is truly an understatement.



## ESL kicks off its third semester of learning, September 2

One of our most important programs, teaching “English as a Second Language” has attracted hundreds of interested area residents anxious to supplement their native language with English. Russ and Dianne Nelson (who follow in the footsteps of Joan and Craig Anderson) join Dave and Lynda Harbertson to co-chair the program, with support from our gifted volunteer teachers. ESL is earning high marks from students and volunteers alike. Classes are scheduled every Tuesday and Thursday at the CRC building (947 West 200 North) through November 20.



**DOS takes on a “ton” of needed projects (September 13<sup>th</sup>).**

It’s amazing what a difference a day or so can make in the lives of our neighbors. And, with the help of the MHT Northwest Day of Service Committee, led by Steve and Connie Sturzenegger, hundreds of volunteers have provided willing hands (not to mention tools) in this ongoing beautification process. Here’s a quick look at what our hard-working DOS people have been up to:



Project #1: A Tree Grows in Rose Park...just in the wrong place.

Jennifer Mahina was a little worried about the tree that broached her yard and her good friend and neighbor's yard, owned by widow Margaret Hansen. When she submitted this tree removal project to MHT, they quickly agreed. And acted. Before you could say "timber" the tree was no longer a threat to either home, or their friendship. Doug and Julie Stephens of MHT headed up the project.



Project #3 (#2 was moved to a later date): A yard gets some extra attention.

Single mom Judy Bowden, who has been battling a long-term illness, and her son needed some help getting their yard in ship shape. Damon and Becky Purdue managed the project, and with the help of a dedicated group of volunteers, their yard took on a whole new look and appeal.



Project #4: This is what we call a 2D (two dumpster) assignment.

No easy task, this yard needed over a dozen trees toppled and removed as well as lots of attention given to the yard. Not a one-day project. Not a one-dumpster project, either. Dave and DeAnn Stone and a very dedicated crew made it happen. “Next time, we hope we can help them install a front door to replace the curtain that is their only barrier to the outside,” says Dave. The homeowner who suffers from MS is extremely grateful for the extra love from “neighbors helping neighbors.”





Project #5: Yard work takes on new meaning. And then some.

Mike and Jody Farley from DOS and some very involved neighbors helped fill not two, but four dumpsters at their good friend Catina's home. Not only that, but the volunteer team emptied a garage full of old furniture and mattresses. CRC volunteers Liz and Gaylen Zentner, who have established wonderful ties with Catina, also helped rally residents in the neighborhood.



Project #6: A prominent corner house gets a pristine makeover.

Detroit-born Charlton Johnson moved to Rose Park at about the age of 6. And never left. “I love it here,” he proclaims. “Love the wide streets, and of course this beautiful corner lot I own.” Positioned kitty-corner from a newly refurbished church, the house drew the attention of Julie Olson, co-founder of My Hometown. The house was beautiful, but the yard could use some additional help. Since Charlton lives alone, it seemed like a little extra “manicuring” might be well received. And it was. (Thanks to Tim Herzog, who oversaw a dozen or so volunteers while wielding his trusty trimmer):



Project #7: Spunky lady with four daughters gets some help in the yard.

Michelle Tago, a Rose Park area homeowner and an American Samoan, raised four wonderful daughters and now has a son-in-law. "I love this community," she says unabashedly, "and I love the community feeling, and especially the diversity." But the challenge of keeping up with yardwork while working full time hasn't been easy. Soon her friendly neighbors stepped in and applied for help from MHT. Julie and Doug Stephens accepted the assignment on behalf of DOS, organized and managed the very extensive yard work and tree trimming to its completion. Take a look at the results below:



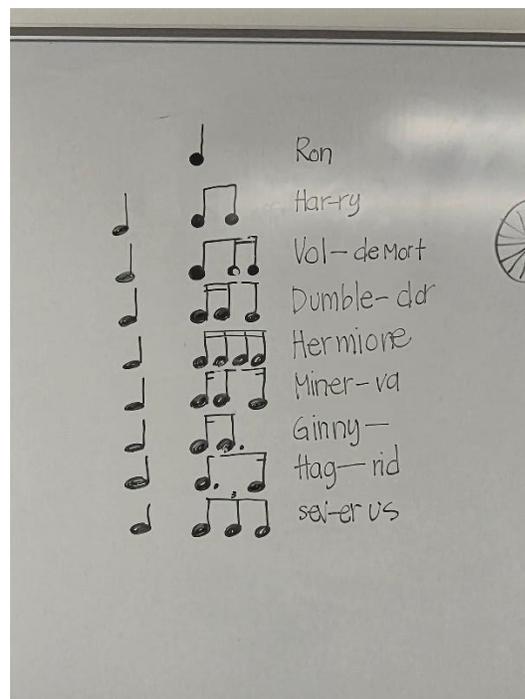
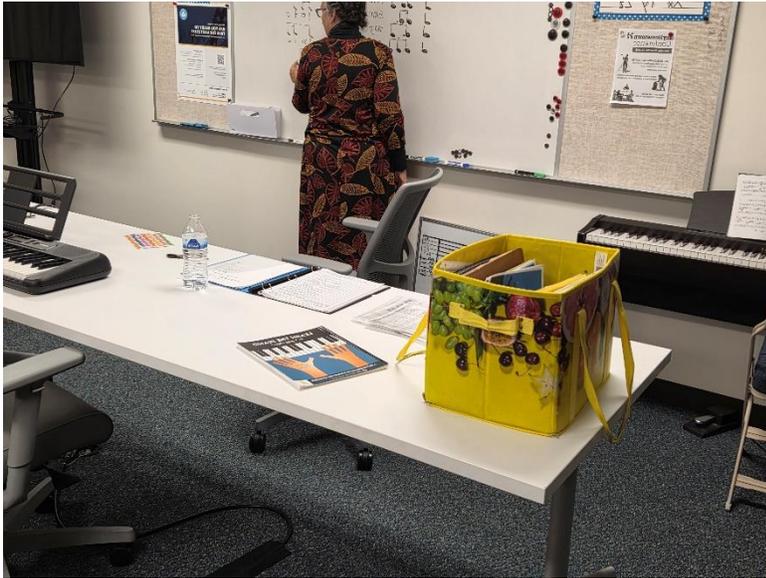
Project #8: A Buddhist Temple receives a little extra love from MHT.

Located on the corner of 12<sup>th</sup> West and 10<sup>th</sup> North, the Buddhist Temple is not only a wonderful edifice, but a visual symbol of Rose Park's diversity and strength. Over the past three years, a very close "working relationship" has been evolving between its followers and My Hometown Northwest; MHT is also cultivating close relationships with other cultural establishments and religions in and around Rose Park. On this day, MHT gladly assigned a willing crew of volunteers to weed, trim and beautify the temple grounds along with help from Buddhist Temple patrons.



## MHT's latest gig could be "music to your ears."

Music aficionado and co-founder of MHT Northwest, Julie Olson is teaching students of all ages how to play the piano. Starting October 1, classes for youth and adults have been held every Wednesday evening at the CRC building and will continue until mid-November, culminating with a recital! Currently the adult class is full, but the response has been so good that another session will start sometime next spring. Stay tuned (no pun intended).



**Pickleball paddles back into action (October 11)**

My Hometown Northwest Pickleball started up again after a summer break. It will be open play for all interested adults every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday at the CRC building from 9-11am. Nets, paddles, balls and up to three courts are ready for play. And the temperature inside this spacious gym is just right. Plus, the CRC installed brand new ceiling lights over the summer. Come play!



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Books and Breakfast event is double the fun (October 11).

Not only double the fun, but double the attendance, too. Thanks to all who participated in the Rose Park Elementary school's highly successful program hosted by the Rose Park Community Center. The goal is to instill good reading habits in our students and bring parents and grandparents together for a wonderful, tasty morning fete. You might say everyone was "fully" educated. Many thanks to Megan Lopez and the staff at RPCC, Marsha and Jared Parker and everyone who contributed from My Hometown Northwest and beyond. Special thanks to The King's English Bookstore for donating hundreds of books to the event each year.



**DOS tackles more projects before winter really hits.**

On Saturday, October 11, DOS committee members and around 70 volunteers took on a truckload of projects in the Rose Park area. Work started around 8am and finished up close to noon. Chris and John Haynes took charge of the day and kicked things off with plenty of very fresh donuts for everyone who attended. Here's a summary of what was accomplished (and it was a lot):



## Project #1: A yard gets a facelift in a flash

Newly recruited DOS Committee member Dan Fish and his crew, in whirlwind fashion, cleaned up Shantel Swensen's yard and helped finish off a wheelchair ramp for the grateful home owner, who is wheelchair bound. The crew also helped adjust her kitchen counters and cooktop, making them much more functional. Well done, team.



Project #2: How to beautify a front yard.

Karen Slade has been an active neighborhood participant and supporter for many years, so it was only fitting that DOS take on her extensive yard project which included moving plants from the side of her driveway to her parking strip. And no one worked harder that day than Karen, overseeing the project, bringing in neighbors to complement the MHT volunteers and even providing some snacks. Success!



Project #3: Getting ready for this yard cleanup was the challenging part.

Tim Herzog realized, when inspecting the property as project coordinator, that the “prep” work would be more challenging than the actual cleanup. Some overgrown trees had become a nuisance for homeowner Aurora Terrajon, and she needed help in a big way. Enter MHT. Days before the volunteer crew arrived Tim trimmed the trees and felled branches so that when gameday came, everything could go smoothly. And, it sure did.



Project #4: What to do when a gazebo overstays its welcome.

This is the kind of project our MHT volunteers can really sink their teeth into. Or at least the teeth of a good chain saw. Chloe Jimenez' gazebo had served its purpose and the homeowner needed help extracting it. Jody and Mike Farley enlisted a contingency of MHT volunteers along with neighbors from a nearby church, ordered a 30 ft. dumpster from the city, and loaded it to the brim with lumber, weeds, limbs and bushes just like that. Well maybe it wasn't "just like that" relatively speaking, but their team made fast work of it. PS: One neighbor was even able to dispose of unwanted sheet metal – it was quite a day).



Project #5: If at first you don't quite succeed...

Judy Bawden's home had been one of MHT's key projects in September, but still, everyone felt there was just a little more to do. So, Randy and Diann Butler coordinated this second effort to pull up roots, remove ivy and debris and finished things off in first class fashion. See below.



Last minute project gets MHT's full attention:

Dan Williams had just one tree that needed to be removed from his yard. And, when our MHT crew appeared out of nowhere and finished the job, he was so thrilled he donated an old chainsaw to My Hometown.



CRC building storage and classroom areas get a face lift:

With so many programs now underway at the CRC building, our volunteers keep expanding our capacity for storage and activities. The Anjewierdens, former CRC Committee chairs, started the process months ago when they constructed a wall of shelving for our primary storage room. Recently, DOS committee members began remodeling an unused back room as a sewing classroom, adding additional shelving and cabinets for sewing machines, fabric and supplies, too. Way to go, team!



## MHT Spotlight



**Linda and Tim Herzog**

### **Soft Spoken Couple Makes Big Contribution**

For over three years, one of the quieter couples serving on My Hometown Northwest's DOS (Day of Service) Committee has been hard at work, never wanting the "spotlight" as they strive to make a difference for Rose Park area residents.

When those Day of Service monthly projects roll around or for special "now" projects, you can almost picture Tim Herzog with a chain saw or hedge trimmer in hand, poised to attack overgrown bushes or unwanted tree limbs. You might also see him loading a dumpster, rarely resting, wearing workman gloves like

they were attached appendages. Linda is usually front and center at DOS HQ, registering and directing volunteers, helping them find vests and equipment. “I like to stay in the background, and just do what I can,” she says, adding “every little bit helps make something bigger happen.”

The two met on a blind date over 40 years ago. She wasn’t looking forward to the night. “Blind dates weren’t my thing, really.” It didn’t help that Tim was late. What was supposed to be “dinner and a movie” turned into a movie and then dinner, luckily. “He’s a man of few words,” she states matter-of-factly. But he had something she found attractive: a big handlebar moustache and scruffy hair. And a genuineness that overshadowed his not so tonsorial appearance. Besides, as a salon stylist, she probably thought she could fix some things if they were out of place.

On the other side of the dinner table that night, Tim could sense she was special. He found out that underneath her apparent shyness was a performer who had sung at Hale Theatre as well as Promised Valley Playhouse, not to mention performing with musical groups throughout the area. “She was so gifted and talented, and at the same time, so easy to be around,” says Tim. “I do love being on stage,” she admits.

They dated for a year and then got married. Bought a home in the neighborhood Tim grew up in, just a block from his parents. After attending the University of Utah and BYU, Tim found his calling in life: working with his hands (as you can tell). That came in handy during his career but also when the couple decided they needed to excavate their basement and add living space they would need for six children who would soon start arriving.

Linda still does salon styling work in their home. She’s also worked as a piano teacher and voice coach for over 20 years. Currently she serves as Primary Chorister and Choir pianist for an LDS ward in Rose Park. Tim has worked in construction and as a mechanic, including a 13-year stint for his father’s famous “Herzog Bros” gas station in Sugarhouse, SLC.

Tim's friend (they often bicycled up nearby canyons together with other bicycle enthusiasts) mentioned how serving in My Hometown might be a good thing. Tim hadn't heard of the organization but was intrigued. What Tim didn't know was that his friend had already submitted his and Linda's names as candidates for the then fledgling service organization.

These days, Tim and Linda enjoy morning walks, reading and studying, and they have become avid gardeners when time allows. They've traveled some, too: China, New Zealand (where he served a 2-year mission for his church), Bali, and Australia, mostly to keep up with family and friends. Most of all, they love spending time with their 19 grandchildren.

Tim says he still wonders "why she chose me." But Linda says she knew they had a very "good thing going" within two weeks. Early on, Tim would occasionally sing to her. "I loved that. He used to sing 'I'm in love with a big blue frog' which helped win me over." Tim sheepishly concedes it may have made a slight difference.

Wonder if he ever sings that "Blue Frog" song out loud but under the roar of a chain saw as he and Linda continue to make a big difference for My Hometown! My guess is, yes!