



May 2013

## 2012 WeGene Neighborhood of the Year

**Welcome** to the RRCO eNewsletter.

RRCO regular meetings are USUALLY the Second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the River Road Annex, 1055 River Road. All RRCO meetings are open to the public and include a **public comment** period. Contact RRCO Co-Chair Jon Belcher [by email](#) for more information.



### City Council Work Session - May 8 at Noon

"Comprehensive Plan for Bringing Properties into City"

The work session will be held at **Harris Hall** in the Lane County Building on 8th between Pearl and Oak. River Road and Santa Clara background and demographics will be presented. The Councilors will hear Santa Clara-River Road Outreach and Learning (SCRROL) findings and SCRRIPT's implementation plans. Join us to learn about our neighborhoods' potential options.

### New RRCO Officers Seeking one more Board member

Jon Belcher and Michael Lambros were elected as RRCO Co-Chairs, and Carleen Reilly was elected as Secretary/Treasurer. We are still seeking a neighbor to fill a vacated seat. Your help is needed to build our neighborhood.

### Santa Clara-River Road Outreach and Learning Project (SCRROL) -- Finalist for national recognition

SCRROL was a cooperative effort of the River Road Community Organization and the Santa Clara Community Organization to contact residents and businesses of both neighborhoods to discuss issues and attempt to determine future priorities. This project involved a leadership team and many volunteer neighbors. This resulted in more than 700 face-to-face discussions and a full report with the findings.

#### RRCO Meetings 2nd Mondays 7-9pm

May 13: Gen Mtg  
Transportation:  
Beltline, Eugene  
TransPlan, public  
transit, &  
Lower River Road  
envisioning

June 10: Board Mtg

#### UpComing Events & Neighborhood News

National Train Day -  
May 11, 11 -3:00  
Eugene Train Depot

Jerry and Mary Lou Finigan and Barbara Denlis will represent SCRROL in the Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) conference in Minneapolis at the end of May as we are a finalist for the "Neighborhood of the Year" award.

**SCRRIPT:** The Santa Clara/River Road Implementation Planning Team meets each month. This group of volunteers from both River Road and Santa Clara has as its mission to try to make the goals identified in 2011 and 2012 by SCRROL a reality.

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## ~ River Road Community Organization ~

### **RRCO General Membership Meeting**

**When:** May 13, 2013; 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

**Where:** River Road Annex, 1055 River Road

### **Beltline, Bridges, Bike Paths, & Buses**

Our neighborhood is anticipating many transportation projects during the next decade or two. We have an opportunity to review the full scope of ideas that will be studied. Savannah Crawford is managing the Beltline Project for ODOT, and our neighbor Eileen Nittler is our RRCO representative to this team. Kurt Yeiter, Eugene Senior Transportation Planner, will share the projects planned for our neighborhood and up into Santa Clara. Tom Schwetz will inform us about the progress LTD is making on the River Road leg of EmX. Join us to ask questions and learn.

"**Housing in the Context of Community**" is an architecture design studio at the University of Oregon focusing on housing schemes for the site at 435 River Road. Christina Bollo, UO Doctoral Student in Sustainable Architecture, and other students want to get feedback from our neighbors on their designs, so they can further refine them for their final review at the end of the term. They have been scholars of the RRCO meeting minute archives and have met with many of the adjacent neighbors. Help us welcome and learn from these architecture students.

### **RRCO Board Meeting -**

**When:** June 10, 2013; 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

**Where:** River Road Annex, 1055 River Road

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## **National Train Day - May 11**

The train station in **Eugene, Oregon**, along our beautiful *Amtrak Cascades* and *Coast Starlight* routes, will be hopping. **Mayor Kitty Piercy** will welcome members of nearby communities for a day of

## **Opportunities**

### **Pancake Breakfast**

Our September Pancake Breakfast is nearing. Volunteer if you want it to continue.

**Artists and Musicians**  
Seeking RR artists and live musicians for September Pancake Breakfast.

**Contact RRCO.**

**Recruiting an RRCO Board member & SCRSCRIPT members.**  
Participate and get better acquainted with your neighborhood. **Contact RRCO.**

**River Road/Hilliard Ln. Revisioning.** Contact [Will Dixon](#) if you are interested in participating in a 2-workshop with neighbors.

**Eugene Park Stewards Heron Slough Adoption.**  
Seeking volunteers to remove invasive species. **Contact Lorna Baldwin.**

kid-friendly festivities and train equipment displays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### **Eugene Park Stewards - Make Volunteering With EPS a Habit!**

Eugene Park Stewards have volunteer work parties coming up in the next few weeks, and if volunteering is a habit you want to get into, or a habit you love having, be sure to visit the City of Eugene Parks and Open Space events calendar here: <http://www.eugene-or.gov/calendar.aspx?CID=55>. EPS volunteer coordinators always appreciate a large turnout at work parties, such as the May 4 Hays Donor Day, and our end-of-April and early-May events could use the extra helping hands. Be sure to wear outdoor appropriate clothing and footwear as the spring weather can be unpredictable.

Contact our volunteer coordinator, Lorna Baldwin at [541-682-4845](tel:541-682-4845), or email us at [lorna.j.baldwin@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:lorna.j.baldwin@ci.eugene.or.us).

### **Heron Slough Adoption**

Have you seen this new slough along the West Bank bike path near Copping Street? As recently as 1936 the Willamette River flowed through this area before it shifted east to its current location. The project reconnected the river to create Heron Slough. The lower half of this quarter-mile long slough, constructed as part of the Delta Ponds project, is now connected to the Willamette River year-round, providing important backwater habitat for native fish, including juvenile Chinook salmon. At moderate and high flows, water from the river flows through the slough from Heron Pond, creating an important side channel that reduces flooding downstream by giving the river a place to spill out into the floodplain. This little stretch of the Willamette is always melodic with the sound of song birds, attracted to the remnant forest of mature cottonwoods and ash, as well as the hundreds of newly planted riparian trees and shrubs.

Eugene Park Stewards is looking for individuals and groups to adopt sections of this quarter-mile slough and provide much needed stewardship. Please contact the EPS West Region Volunteer Coordinator at [541-682-4845](tel:541-682-4845) or [lorna.j.baldwin@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:lorna.j.baldwin@ci.eugene.or.us) for more information or to sign up!

### **Native Plant Tours and Celebration at Awbrey Park**

Join your Santa Clara Friends of Awbrey Park volunteers who have been working for over 4 years to restore the natural area along Spring Creek. Bring the family and celebrate the coming of spring and all the amazing native plants and wildflowers in bloom. The Friends will offer guided tours, native plant giveaways, smores over a campfire, horseshoes, frisbee golf and more for the whole family. Saturday, May 4, 12 -3:00. Awbrey Park is located at the corner of River Rd and Spring Creek.



## Eugene 4J School Bond Measure on Ballot

*\$170 million bond measure would replace four aging school buildings, improve technology, update instructional materials, upgrade security, and repair schools*

A bond measure that would provide local funding for Eugene public schools is on the May 21 election ballot.

### Measure 20-210 would allow the Eugene School District to:

- Repair schools and replace four aging school buildings
- Improve classroom technology
- Update instructional materials
- Upgrade school security

### It would increase property tax rates by:

- 24¢ per \$1,000 assessed value
- \$42/year for home with an assessed value of \$174,000 (median in Eugene School District)

By law, bond money can only be spent on capital facilities (such as buildings, athletic fields and parking lots), equipment and technology. It cannot be used to pay for teachers, school days or school programs.

Ballots will be mailed to registered voters beginning May 3 and must be returned to the county elections office or an official ballot drop box by May 21, 8 p.m.

### Special Board News

Tuula Rebhahn, prior RRCO Board Secretary, and Hannah Cooper are bicycling up the East Coast to Boston. We hear rumors that they may extend their bike tour with a return trip back across the US. Follow their cross-country bicycle adventures on Facebook, their blog or by e-mail. Food Cycles Bicycle Tour promotING eating locally and living low-impact. They have introduced us to people involved with local food movements, worked on organic farms, given talks in schools and such. They blog about what they see and learn along the way. Follow their progress at [foodcyclesbiketour.blogspot.com](http://foodcyclesbiketour.blogspot.com), or "like" them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/FoodCyclesBikeTour>.



### Oakleigh Cohousing News

We are looking forward to hosting a collaborative event on **May 5th** along with **CoHo Ecovillage in Corvallis**: a cohousing joint venture tour. The tour begins in Corvallis at 10:30, followed by lunch in their common house, then moving down to Eugene for a tour of the Oakleigh site, followed by a dinner. RSVP required. Check the website post for more information: [≤oakleighmeadow.org≥](http://oakleighmeadow.org) If you have been watching OMC from a distance and excited by the potential but unsure and waiting to join - now is the time! A lot of the foundational work has been done, but there are still decisions to be made. Join now to be a part of the planning, to participate in the discount phase, to have more choices in unit selection, and to enjoy being a part of our dynamic community! Don't just watch, come play and build the dream with us.

You can always contact Oakleigh Meadow by calling **541-357-8303**

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### RRCO E-Updates:

Sign up for the RRCO's e-news, change your e-address, receive **Police Alerts** or **bike/ped info**, work on the **Graffiti clean up team**, organize a **Neighborhood Watch** group or become a member of the RRCO Board or the Santa Clara-River Road Implementation Planning Team (SCRRIPT), working on land use, governance, transportation, or parks and recreation issues. [riverroadcommunityorganization@gmail.com](mailto:riverroadcommunityorganization@gmail.com).

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Contact [Jon Belcher](#), RRCO Co-Chair, with your questions or concerns about the neighborhood or River Road Community Organization. "Like" River Road Community Organization on [Facebook](#) or find us on the web at [riverroadco.org](http://riverroadco.org)