

The River and Garden District

2012: WeGene Neighborhood of the Year for SCRROL
(Santa Clara-River Road Outreach and Learning)

2013: 2nd Place Award in Multi-neighborhood projects at Neighborhoods
USA (NUSA) for SCRROL

May 2014

Welcome to the RRCO eNewsletter.

RRCO regular monthly meetings - Second Monday (USUALLY)

7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

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 riverroadcommunityorganization@gmail.org for more information.

As funds run low for mailing postcards and newsletters, encourage friends and neighbors to sign up for monthly electronic e-mail from RRCO: riverroadcommunityorganization@gmail.com.

New RRCO Officers

Jon Belcher was reelected as RRCO Co-Chair, and **Karrie Walters-Warren** is our newly elected Co-Chair. **Carleen Reilly** was once again elected as Secretary/Treasurer. With all seats filled on the Board and the officers in place, we are ready to tackle a new year of neighborhood activities. Join us in the effort to build a healthy livable neighborhood.

Santa Clara-River Road Implementation Planning Team (SCRRIPT) Update

Twenty-three River Road, Santa Clara, and resource people met on March 8 with Diane Seehawer to learn how to facilitate Listening Sessions. *Here is Karrie Walters-Warren (new RRCO Co-Chair) and Diane Seehawer. Thanks, Jan Halverson, for the pictures.*

Be watching your mail box to learn about opportunities for you to participate in a small work group to further refine our community priorities for land use planning, transportation, parks, governance, and public safety. Whether you are pro or con, have given views before or not, we need to hear your views. Left picture: *Sasha Luftig (LTD), Jerry Finigan (SCCO), Rene Kane (Neighborhood Services), Carleen Reilly (RRCO)*. Right picture: *Kate Perle (SCCO-front left), Jon Belcher (RRCO), Jerry, and Diane.*

The SCRRIPT team includes:

Santa Clara

Kate Perle
Ann Vaughn
Gary Haliski
Ed McMahon
Gary Wildish
Kelly Burke
Russell Bevans
Karen Lawrence
Jerry Finigan

River Road

Carleen Reilly
Jon Belcher
Pat Reilly
Beverly Barr
Hillary Kittleson
Jan Halvorson
Sarai Johnson
Kate Kelly
(Tim Foelker --Technical resource)

We shared our thoughts in small groups and then recorded some statements on index cards for use in determining priorities and next steps.

Contact SCRRIPT Co-Chairs [Jon Belcher](#) or [Jerry Finigan](#) for more information.

~ **River Road Community Organization** ~

RRCO Executive Board Meeting

May 12, 2014; 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
River Road Annex, 1055 River Road

The decision was made in April to further organize ourselves with a Board meeting in May. Another decision was to reinstate our Pancake Breakfast in September 2014. Jolene Siemsen will coordinate efforts, and other Board members volunteered to assist. If you are interested in helping with this September event, please let us know at our RRCO e-mail account: riverroadcommunityorganization@gmail.com. It was proposed to move the 2015 Pancake Breakfast to the Spring so we can inaugurate a Harvest Potluck in the Fall.

We discussed the crime situation in our neighborhood with Eugene Police Officer Solesbee and heard his views about what could be done. Homelessness, litter, drug use, gang activity, graffiti--including bias activity, and other suspicious incidents are of great concern. An additional session will be held with an EPD officer.

At the April meeting, we also discussed fundraising, Land Use, Homeless Rest Stops, the Goodwill Building project and community space, the elementary school replacement, proposed cuts in Neighborhood Services in the city budget and the impacts on neighborhoods, SCRRIPT Listening Session Training, and the list of goals and activities that our neighbors suggested at the December Holiday Potluck.

RRCO General Board Meeting

June 9, 2014; 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

River Road Annex, 1055 River Road

A specific topic was not selected for this meeting. Possibilities include continued discussion of public safety, beekeeping, transportation, or SCRRIPT activities.

River Road Elementary - New School Design Open House

Design has started on a new school building! Groundbreaking will occur in 2015, and the new school is expected to open in fall 2016.

Please join us on **May 6** for a public meeting about the design of the new River Road/El Camino del Río Elementary School.

Get a look at the initial design concepts. Share your comments and ask questions. Visit with the architects and other design team members.

River Road/El Camino del Río Elementary School, 120 W. Hilliard Lane, in the cafeteria

Tuesday, May 6, 5:30–7 p.m.

5:30 p.m. Open house begins

6:00 p.m. Presentation & discussion

7:00 p.m. Ending time

Learn more:

- Join the mailing list for school design news by emailing riverroaddesign@4j.lane.edu
- Watch for updates at www.4j.lane.edu/bond
- Call 4J Communications at [541-790-7737](tel:541-790-7737)

Recepción para el nuevo diseño de la escuela

Ha comenzado el diseño del nuevo edificio de la escuela. La construcción comenzará en 2015 y la escuela abrirá de nuevo durante el otoño del 2016.

Favor de acompañarnos este 6 de Mayo a la reunión pública donde se discutirá el diseño de la escuela.

Actualícese con el diseño inicial, comparta sus comentarios y haga sus preguntas. Converse con los arquitectos y otros integrantes del equipo de diseño.

River Road/El Camino del Río Elementary School, 120 W. Hilliard Lane, en la cafetería

Martes, 6 de mayo, 17:30–19:00

17:00 p.m. Recepción

18:00 p.m. Presentación y discusión

19:00 p.m. Cierre

Como obtener información actualizada:

- Inscríbase a la lista de correos electrónicos acerca del diseño de la escuela, envíe un correo electrónico a riverroaddesign@4j.lane.edu
- Puede encontrar información de ultima hora en la pagina www.4j.lane.edu/bond
- Llame al departamento de comunicaciones al [541-790-7707](tel:541-790-7707)

School Volunteer Opportunities

KELLY MIDDLE SCHOOL MENTOR PROGRAM

Mentoring helps kids connect with positive adults. It provides a safe person in whom a child can confide. It shows consistency in relationships. It helps teens to develop a good self-esteem.

Can you give 30 minutes a week to make a difference in the life of a teen?

Kelly is looking for adults to have lunch with a student every week. The commitment is for one school year, approximately early October until mid-June.

Who? The best mentors are responsible adults who are comfortable with teens, like to listen, play games, and be a positive adult to a kid. Criminal background checks must be done prior to meeting with a student.

Where? Kelly Middle School; 850 Howard; Eugene

When? One day per week, to be determined, during lunchtimes (between 11:00 and 12:30). Training is provided.

For more information, please contact:

Eileen Nittler eileennittler@gmail.com or [\(541\) 520-1492](tel:541-520-1492)

If you prefer working with older students, **North Eugene High School** is seeking adults to help prepare students for college and career. The ASPIRE Program connects adults with students at the school to help navigate applications for college, scholarships and testing. The hours are very flexible, with a commitment of one school year. All training is included. Contact Ann Christianson at [541-790-4568](tel:541-790-4568), orchristianson_a@4j.lane.edu.

Goodwill Building Art Display

Check out the artwork that is on display in the Goodwill Building windows. Steve Norris gets the kudos. We look forward to the changing exhibits.

Please contact Clare Strawn <clarestrawn@gmail.com> or Karrie Walters <karrie42@gmail.com> to learn the latest news.

Eugene Park Stewards - Filbert Grove Work Party

Next Saturday, May 10, 9 to noon along the bike path at the end of McClure, just north of

Stults

Tools, gloves, snacks provided by Parks Stewards.

The work parties are fun and help build local food security. The site is gorgeous - along the river, view of River and Spencer's Butte, green, no cars--very tranquil.

A photo gallery of work parties over time from the Filbert Grove.

<http://www.suburbanpermaculture.org/filbert-grove.html>

Contact Jan Spencer if you want to participate in neighborhood bike tours this summer. janspencer@gmail.com

To become involved in Eugene Park Stewards volunteer projects in the West Region, contact Lorna Baldwin, [541-682-4845](tel:541-682-4845) or lorna.j.baldwin@ci.eugene.or.us

Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) Conference in Eugene

Put May 21 - 24 on your calendar.

Today (May 2) is the last day to register for 39th annual NUSA. If you are willing to volunteer 6 hours, the registration fee is waived. To learn more about volunteering, contact Barbara Denlis, Volunteer Coordinator, at bdenlis@gmail.com, [541-654-3966](tel:541-654-3966).

River Road Tour and Dinner a feature of NUSA Conference - May 23

An exciting activity during NUSA is a permaculture tour of River Road properties. Dinner will be shared with visitors. We are hoping for great weather as we stroll our lovely neighborhood.

Volunteers are needed to meet and greet visitors, provide food dishes to share and offer neighborhood insights. Contact Jan Spencer for additional details. <janspencer@gmail.com>

Speeders in your Neighborhood?

Community Radar Watch Program

EPD receives many calls from Eugene residents with concerns about the numbers of speeders in their neighborhoods. With limited resources, the Traffic Enforcement Unit depends on information about speeding in certain areas, which assists them in dispersing traffic patrols. This information also helps the city when deciding on location of traffic control device installation and more.

In citizen radar programs, volunteers monitor vehicle speeds using a department issued radar unit. When a citizen attends the 2-hour Radar Watch class, they are trained by a Traffic Enforcement Officer to understand basic radar technology and science, how to use the radar guns, and safety while out on the streets. In the event a speeder is tracked on radar traveling 10 miles or more over the speed limit, the volunteer will document the vehicle description and license plate number. The data gathered is returned to the program manager and then police volunteers check the license with the car description to ensure accuracy before a letter is sent

out to the registered owners. The letters are of escalating urgency regarding the vehicle speed and location. The third letter includes reference to a possible visit by a Traffic Enforcement Officer should the vehicle be tracked speeding a fourth time. EPD is interested in holding a Radar Watch Class.

If you are interested in attending this 2-hour session and we can get at least 12 other interested volunteers, EPD will schedule the class. Please register for an upcoming training with Harlow Meno, [541-682-8332](tel:541-682-8332) or harlow.b.meno@ci.eugene.or.us

Request to publish information about preserving Civic Stadium

(This is not an endorsement by RRCO)

“Strong, Timely Community Support Will Insure Civic Stadium Is Restored for Wide Variety of Uses”

By Tom Halferty and David Zupan, Civic Stadium Fundraising Committee

The good news is that the City of Eugene has won the bid to purchase the Civic Stadium property from School District 4J with \$4.5 million in parks bond funds. The challenging news is that the City Council is requiring that \$3 million from private donors and grants for restoration of the historic ballpark be raised by September 5th. It's now or never for the restoration of Civic Stadium!

Fortunately multiple groups including Friends of Civic Stadium, a 501(c)3 non-profit with tax exempt status, are working to raise these funds. Folks are taking advantage of the fact that they can donate to an escrow fund knowing that their money will be returned if the campaign is unsuccessful. Besides collecting such large and small donor contributions or “loans,” as described below, Friends of Civic is also now forming partnerships with area businesses many of which are donating a percentage of their profits to restore Civic.

In addition Friends of Civic launched a new educational program using citizen volunteers to organize and speak at events throughout the area about the unique opportunities Civic Stadium presents with its multitude of potential recreational and cultural uses. Civic can also be seen as a symbol of community efforts to preserve the livability of Eugene and Springfield through wise and sustainable use of land, historic resources and neighborhood assets.

The restoration of Civic is the only viable option for guaranteeing that the site is preserved for public use as was originally intended when it was donated to the city in the 1930s. Our area needs Civic Stadium for field sports, community events, education, healing arts, resilient living and business partner programs, not more large scale commercial development. Imagine watching a Kidsport or soccer game, hearing a concert or enjoying a July 4th celebration protected from the rain and sun.

The escrow account Friends of Civic set up with Evergreen Land Title Company can receive donations towards the \$3 million. Money donated to the account can only be used for actual rehabilitation of Civic Stadium: installation of an all weather turf field, lighting, repair of the parking lot, and actual expenses preparing the site for use by the community. It includes a new roof, repair to the structure, new plumbing, electrical wiring, restored bathrooms, enhanced ADA access for the disabled, seismic upgrades, drainage for under the stands and field, a new field itself, etc.

If the \$3 million required from private funds is not raised in time, or for any reason the City does not close the deal with 4J, 100% of donated funds will be returned to those making the donations.

When the \$3 million is raised and the deal closes so that the City becomes the new owner, and the escrow funds begin to be used for the rehabilitation of Civic, then the donors can claim credit for a charitable donation on their income taxes. That will more than likely be for the tax year of 2015.

You can learn more about the fundraising effort by visiting the website: www.FriendsofCivicStadium.org. Or contact us below if you have any leads on possible business partnerships, groups our speakers can address or if you want to learn of other ways you can help with our campaign. Thanks!

Tom Halferty, Civic Stadium Fundraising Committee Chair [\(541\) 517-2646](tel:5415172646)
David Zupan, Civic Stadium Fundraising and Volunteer Coordinator [541-484-9167](tel:5414849167), zupandavid@gmail.com

RRCO E-Updates: riverroadcommunityorganization@gmail.com

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 Santa Clara-River Road Implementation Planning Team (SCRRIPT) to work on land use, governance, transportation, or parks and recreation issues.

NOTE: RRCO Board and General Membership Meetings are usually held at the River Road Annex, 1055 River Road. *We usually meet the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. All meetings are open to the public with a public comment period.*

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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** and **'invite'** your friends to **'like'** us or find us on the web at riverroadco.org