

# The River and Garden District

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

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

August 2014

**Welcome** to the RRCO e-Newsletter.

RRCO regular monthly meetings - Second Monday  
(USUALLY)

General Membership meeting - 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

RRCO Board meeting - 8:30 - 9:15 p.m.

River Road Annex, 1055 River Road

All RRCO meetings open to the public and  
include **public comment** period. Contact RRCO Co-  
Chair Jon Belcher

at [riverroadcommunityorganization@gmail.org](mailto:riverroadcommunityorganization@gmail.org) for  
more information.

As funds run low for mailing postcards and  
newsletters, encourage friends and neighbors to sign  
up for monthly RRCO e-News

: [riverroadcommunityorganization@gmail.com](mailto:riverroadcommunityorganization@gmail.com).

## **Santa Clara-River Road Implementation Planning Team (SCRRIPT) Neighborhood Listening Sessions**

Letters of invitation were sent to River  
Road and Santa Clara neighbors. Small  
groups are well underway and going  
strong. By measures of neighbors getting  
acquainted with one another and having  
an opportunity to share concerns  
without fear that someone will object to  
ones views, the groups have been a

**RRCO General  
Membership Meetings**  
2nd Mondays 7-8:30 pm; Board  
meetings - 8:30 to 9:15 pm

August 11: Food Preservation &  
Veggie Swap

September 8: Transportation  
Issues

October 13: Potential Candidate  
Forum and Ballot Measure info

## **Announcements**

**Pancake Breakfast -**

September 6, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. -  
River Road Annex, 1055 River Road

Impromptu Pik Nik - August 2 at  
6:00 p.m. at Emerald Park

success.

There's time to join us with several more sessions scheduled to share your views on Land Use, Transportation, Parks and Rec, Governance, and Public Safety.

For more info, to receive an electronic copy of the letter of invitation, or to sign up, contact Jerry Finigan [jerfinigan@comcast.net](mailto:jerfinigan@comcast.net) or [541-688-1406](tel:541-688-1406) for Santa Clara groups; and contact Carleen Reilly at [carleenr@gmail.com](mailto:carleenr@gmail.com) or [541-689-8561](tel:541-689-8561) as a River Roder.

### **RRCO Pancake Breakfast - September 6 - 9:00 to 11:00**

Celebrate the neighborhood and the season with a Fall Pancake Breakfast. Volunteers needed to help our able team. Set up tables, flip pancakes, wash dishes, donate fresh fruit, or just bring a friend and enjoy a special time of the year. Send an e-mail to [riverroadcommunityorganization@gmail.com](mailto:riverroadcommunityorganization@gmail.com) to volunteer. A SCRRIPT table with maps will allow you to share your ideas for building our future community.

### **RRCO Board Opening**

The Board opening was not filled in July, however, we have a candidate and nominations from the floor can be made for additional candidates. The General Membership can vote at the August meeting. Exercise your voice and use your energy for the common good.

### **RRCO Seeks Newsletter Assistance**

If and when we have funds to produce a newsletter, another volunteer with computer graphic lay out skills is desirable. Content and pictures are provided. Contact Co-Chair [Jon Belcher](mailto:Jon.Belcher) to put your skills to work for your neighborhood.

## Opportunities

### Report Graffiti on EWEB Poles

Call [541-685-7457](tel:541-685-7457) with pole Transformer number or switch box number and Street Address of property close to EWEB facility. For graffiti on a traffic control box, call Eugene Public Works [541-682-4800](tel:541-682-4800) with the location.

### Eugene Park Stewards

Seeking volunteers to remove invasive species along the river bank. Contact Lorna Baldwin.

### Heron Ponds Habitat Team

Contact Bill Allison, [mrbill@rancholoco-salsas.com](mailto:mrbill@rancholoco-salsas.com)

## Ongoing Events & Neighborhood News

SCRRIPT Listening Sessions - Sign up for a house party this summer -

Contact [Carleen Reilly](mailto:Carleen.Reilly)

Heron Ponds Habitat Team - Contact [Bill Alison](mailto:Bill.Allison) for current plans.

## Contact list

E-addresses for you to cut and paste in your browser.

Co-Chair Jon Belcher:  
[riverroadcommunityorganization@gmail.c](mailto:riverroadcommunityorganization@gmail.c)

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- River Road Community Organization -

**RRCO General Membership Meeting**

August 11, 2014; 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

**RRCO Board Meeting - 8:30 to 9:15 p.m.**

River Road Annex, 1055 River Road

**Food Preservation & Veggie Swap.** Neighbors Teresa Damron and Jan Spencer will share information about food preservation and storage for good winter eating. If you have any food questions, write Teresa at [TeresaDamron@gmail.com](mailto:TeresaDamron@gmail.com) so she can be prepared with pertinent information. Bring your extra veggies to share with your neighbors. Election of a new RRCO Board member.

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**RRCO General Membership Meeting**

September 8, 2014; 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

**RRCO Board Meeting - 8:30 to 9:15 p.m.**

River Road Annex, 1055 River Road

**Transportation Issues.** Find out the latest plans for improving transportation in the neighborhood. Traffic calming, improved transit, and better functioning of Beltline. Join the conversation to make transit work for River Roaders.

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**RRCO General Membership Meeting**

October 13, 2014; 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

**RRCO Board Meeting - 8:30 to 9:15 p.m.**

River Road Annex, 1055 River Road

**Possible Candidate Forum and Ballot Measure information.** We are in the planning stages of considering whether to organize a candidate forum and share information about ballot measures up for a vote in the November General Election. More information will be shared as plans develop.

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**Little Library Box**

Rep. Nancy Nathanson donated a Little Library Box to the River Road neighborhood at the last RRCO

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**SCRRIPT Co-Chair Jerry**

Finigan: [jerfinigan@comcast.net](mailto:jerfinigan@comcast.net)

**Goodwill Building Redevelopment -**

**Clare Strawn:** [clarestrawn@gmail.com](mailto:clarestrawn@gmail.com)

**Homeless Rest Stops - Michael Wisth:**

[Michael.C.Wisth@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:Michael.C.Wisth@ci.eugene.or.us)

**Oregon Passenger Rail:**

[www.OregonPassengerRail.org](http://www.OregonPassengerRail.org)

**Neighborhood Services - Rene Kane:**

<http://www.eugene-or.gov/neighborhoods>

**Eugene Park Stewards - Lorna Baldwin:**

<http://www.eugene-or.gov/neighborhoods>

[lorna.j.baldwin@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:lorna.j.baldwin@ci.eugene.or.us)

**Heron Pond Habitat Team - Bill Allison:**

[mrbill@rancholoco-salsas.com](mailto:mrbill@rancholoco-salsas.com)

**River Road Website:**

[riverroadco.org](http://riverroadco.org)

**Facebook Page:**

[www.facebook.com/pages/River-Road-Community-Organization/361757733858734](http://www.facebook.com/pages/River-Road-Community-Organization/361757733858734)

**River Road**

**Permaculture Tour 2014**

Coordinated by Jan Spencer for Neighborhoods USA 2014. Hosted by Ravi & Michele at Dharmalaya. Food from Govinda's & RRCO neighbors. The evening was a huge success. Thanks, Neighbors.

meeting. The Board is searching for places to put it, people to adopt it, clean it, and keep its books organized. Once we place this box, it may inspire others to build boxes to locate in multiple places in the River Road area. May Little Libraries bloom and book swapping begin!

Here's a quote from Rep. Nathanson's e-newsletter.

*"As some of you may have seen, if we are connected on [Facebook](#), I was delighted to see neighborhood book exchange boxes on a spring trip to Portland, and started asking about availability in Eugene. Since then, the newspaper has written a story about them and several of you are letting me know about new ones springing up.*

**What a feast!**

*My neighbor was kind enough to build some of these boxes, and I was so pleased to present the first one to the River Road Community Organization (RRCO) at their July monthly meeting. RRCO will determine a good location to install the book exchange box.*

*If your neighborhood organization would like one, let me know and we'll see if we can get another one made."*

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**North Eugene High School Ukelele Band at NUSA**

### **Goodwill Building Art Display**

As we wait for news of new occupants in the Goodwill Building, the art display is changing up. Check it out and appreciate Steve Norris's efforts to cheer our neighborhood.

Contact Clare Strawn <[clarestrawn@gmail.com](mailto:clarestrawn@gmail.com)> or Karrie Walters <[karrie42@gmail.com](mailto:karrie42@gmail.com)> for the latest information.

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### **River Road Elementary School - Oak Grove Update -Scheduled Maintenance and Tree Removal**

We learned from School District 4-J staff that some work is planned to preserve the grove of oak trees in the northeast corner of River Road Elementary

School. An arborist has determined that the trees are free of root fungus, but he did recommend that some of the trees needed some work in order to keep them safe and healthy and that two trees should be removed. The trees have been numbered with orange paint near the ground if you want to observe them for yourself.

Tree #1 is 28" in diameter and about 80' tall. It is the tree that is the farthest to the west side of the grove. This tree will have 2-3 large branches removed. The branches to be removed go to the south and southwest from the trunk. The arborist believes that removing those branches will help straighten the trunk over time.

Tree #2 is 34" in diameter, about 70' tall, and already leans fairly hard toward the south. Nearly all of the branches go to the south and thus is in severe danger of root rot, especially in an ice storm. He recommended that the tree be removed and that immediate action is needed.

Tree #3 is 48" in diameter and about 80' tall. This tree is located at the west end of the two benches. The plan is to remove the very large limb that goes from the trunk to the east. This action will remove much of the weight from the side that the tree is leaning.

Tree #4 is about 15" in diameter and about 30' tall. It is located between the two benches mentioned above. This tree already leans very hard to the south. Further, it will likely be heavily damaged when the branch is removed from tree #3.

Please contact Beth Gerot [gerot\\_b@4j.lane.edu](mailto:gerot_b@4j.lane.edu) if you have concerns about this proposal.

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## River Road Land Use Updates

1. Evergreen Housing: We have recently heard that there are neighbors concerned with the felling of some trees on the property. We are looking into that matter.

The City of Eugene has offered to offset 50% of the cost of constructing a pedestrian activated rapid

flashing beacon (stutter flash) on River Road in the vicinity of Hatton Avenue. That would leave an additional ~\$30-40K for Evergreen to pick up. Andrew Brand is hopeful that they can cover that, but they need to get further along in the project to see if their financing can absorb the cost.

Stay tuned!

2. Greystone Apartments: (160 Briarcliff) [Minor Adjustment Review](#) They are proposing to replace a cinder block wall with a wooden wall along the west side of their storage wall in the NW corner of their property. The comment period has closed so we will await the decision.

3. Oakleigh Meadow Cohousing: The Land Use Board of Appeals heard the appeal of the tentative PUD approval by the Hearings Official as modified by the Planning Commission on 7/24. They usually issue a decision within two weeks, which will either be to affirm (approve), remand (require amendments), or reverse the approval. Either party can then appeal that decision to the Court of Appeals, which is usually quick to either accept the case or not. The developers have submitted their [Final PUD application](#) and Building Permits to the City. Neighbors had some concern because the building permits described the buildings as townhouses, duplexes and accessory buildings rather than condominiums, but the designations are a function of how the City tracks buildings. The PUD approved by the Hearing Official and affirmed by the Planning Commission was presented as a Condo Project. The developer is not proposing to build anything different.

4. New Subdivision Proposed for Property located south of Maxwell Road and west of North Park (This is the vacant property west and south of Valley Restaurant Equipment that was recently annexed and rezoned.) There is a **neighborhood meeting tentatively planned for 7 PM on August 26th** (place to be determined). The proposal is for the R-2 zoned property at the south end of the area and is tentatively likely to include single family lots with some multifamily and duplex as well. Stay tuned for more information.

If you would like more information on any of these projects or would like to be added to RRCO's land use

update listing, please contact Jon Belcher  
at [jbelcher@efn.org](mailto:jbelcher@efn.org) 541-343-6695.

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### Impromptu Pik Nik

It's pik nik time for Emerald Park.

Saturday, August 2; 6 PM

Please bring your own pik nik items - dish to share,  
plate, utensils, etc

Camp chair, blanket,,,,,,,,

We will be between the playground and the jogging  
track, same as last time.

There is shade.

Come a bit earlier for frisbee, croquet or whatever  
other kind of pik nik game you like.

Feel free to bring a friend

We had a very fun time last pik nik.

Contact Jan Spencer for info. [janspencer@gmail.com](mailto:janspencer@gmail.com)

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### RRCO E-

**Updates:** [riverroadcommunityorganization@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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**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.*

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](http://riverroadco.org)