

**IT'S ALL IN THE NAME OF PHUN...**

I recently heard it said that, "Planning Helps Unite Neighborhoods"; I've been using the term a lot lately just for phun, but I like this definition even better. Planning in the context of urban and rural life, needn't be boring or just about street widths, curbs and sidewalks, the allowed size of a house or business, or where the Urban Growth Boundary lies. It is all of that; but it can be much, and should be more Phun.

Putting the Phun in urban planning means getting to know your diverse bunch of neighbors along the way. Whether the conversation starts around the color of your roses, the growing need to mow the lawn on the next sunny day, or at a neighborhood meeting, the important thing is that we begin talking. Bring a little food into the mix or a good story to share and you've got a good recipe for Phun.

Those simple conversations can help dissolve the barriers that so easily come between us, even without thinking, as we manage our busy lives. They can grow to include our hopes and concerns for our neighborhood and the more we talk about the seemingly little things,

*Continues on Pg 3...*

**SANTA CLARA RIVER ROAD OUTREACH  
& LEARNING PROJECT (SCRROL)**

**BUILDING COMMUNITY, HAVING FUN, AND LEARNING**

Three related events occurred recently in the River Road-Santa Clara neighborhoods. A fun evening at the Santa Clara Community Organization (SCCO) was spent answering questions about the neighborhood. Even the simplest question provoked conversation, controversy, and laughter. Do you know what percent of the Eugene population (within the Urban Growth Boundary) resides in the combined River Road and Santa Clara neighborhoods? Would you believe it is 18% , or maybe even more after the 2010 census numbers are available?

Jerry Finigan, SCCO Chair, was having a blast as he once again assumed the role of teacher, and Kate Perle played the role of Vanna White or Class Clown. We were building community, learning about our neighborhood issues,

*Continues on Pg 4...*

**SCRROL OUTREACH AT  
THE SCOTTISH FESTIVAL**



*SCRROL members Peter Thurston (top), Carleen Reilly, RRCO & Jerry Finnegan, SCCO (below)*

River Road Community Organization  
c/o Neighborhood Services  
99 W 10th Ave  
Eugene, OR 97401



PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
EUGENE OR 97401  
PERMIT NO 377

## BIKE/PEDESTRIAN CHANGES COMING TO RIVER ROAD

At our July 11th meeting we will hear from Lee Shoemaker (City of Eugene Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator) about Bicycle and Pedestrian projects proposed for our River Road neighborhood in the coming years as part of the City's Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan. He will also discuss the opportunities we might have to influence the designs so that they work best for immediate neighbors as well as those who will use them to move through the neighborhood. Safer and easier bicycle and pedestrian travel is a desirable goal but design is also important, given the unique rural nature of our Neighborhood. Many of these proposed routes have heritage trees and we also have issues with stormwater runoff. What mitigations will be needed for any additional impervious surfaces? Some neighbors have raised concerns that these projects shouldn't have the impact that we saw when Maxwell Street was "improved". Can we use context sensitive design to adapt these plans to fit our unique situation? Come see what we can learn from Lee at our July meeting.

### HERE IS WHAT IS CURRENTLY PROPOSED:

#### PEDESTRIAN PROJECTS

Among the proposed projects are sidewalks for N. Park Avenue (Howard Avenue to Northwest Expressway), and Maxwell (from Labona over the NW Expressway).

Further out, sidewalks are proposed for Howard Lane (River Road to N. Park), Hilliard Lane (Lund Drive to West Bank Trail), and Lake Drive (Howard Avenue to Horn Lane). A sidewalk for the south side of Fir Lane is funded and will be installed next year.

#### BICYCLE PROJECTS

The City's draft plan proposes bicycle boulevards for Hilliard Lane and N. Park Avenue.

Medium-term priorities include Silver Lane (N. Park Avenue to Grove Street), along with one on Park Avenue, and also a bike lane along Grove Street.

Further on there are bike boulevards proposed for all of Park Avenue, Lake Drive, Copping Avenue, Horn Lane/Arbor Drive, Fremont Ave., and Kourt Drive/Owosso Drive, and a Division Avenue path to connect to the Beaver underpass path.

Long-term priorities include new Bike/Ped access-ways to the West Bank path are proposed at Hansen Lane, Park Ave. to Stephens Drive, McClure Drive, Arbor Drive, Merry Lane and Maynard Avenue.

#### BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN PROJECTS

The current version of the system proposes intersection improvements on River Road at Fir Lane, Horn Lane, Howard Avenue, Hilliard Lane and River Avenue

Finally in our Neighborhood there is a very aspirational proposal to build a bike/ped overpass across the railroad tracks from Bethel Avenue to Nadine Drive, and also a bike/ped overpass across the Beltline at N. Park.

Jon Belcher, RRCO Co-Chair

*Left: Willamette River Side-Channel Restoration south of Copping Road.*

*Below Right: One of several new park benches in our neighborhood, waiting for you.*



## EUGENE RAIL YARD CLEANUP PROJECT UPDATE

*Phun continues from Pg 1...*

The RRCO General Meeting on July 11 will include a presentation from Don Hanson, the Department of Environmental Quality's Project Manager for the cleanup site. Don will present a brief history of the project, describe the cleanup activities conducted by the Union Pacific, and focus on issues directly related to the River Road community. Don will also be available to answer questions about the project.

Please join us for this informative and important discussion in our community.

the more opportunity there is to look at our broader community through a shared lens. A foundation for planning emerges from that shared experience. Urban planners call this building social capital but short of including Phun, it can lead to just another document on a shelf or a stale meeting.

Successful Phun involves more than just getting a lot of people to an event or meeting. Look at the turnout at the RRCO Pancake Breakfast last September — there were more neighbors there than you could shake a Metro Plan at. Since this event, RRCO has begun a joint learning and outreach project with the Santa Clara Community Organization, SCRROL, so we can hear from you about what makes your neighborhood a community. One local business owner has begun reaching out to other business owners who live or work in the area to explore opportunities to better support our neighborhood and each other. RRCO has four new Board members as of March, and another who's starting a series of speaking engagements around town to engage people in lively, practical conversations about urban sustainability, emergency planning, and neighborhood preparedness.

Our neighborhood, community, our nation and our planet are in a constant state of flux and change. Planning for our future is complicated by very big unknowns like climate uncertainty, unparalleled ecological events like those in Japan or the Gulf of Mexico, diminishing natural resources, or a still struggling global-to-local economy. Through it all, we can have that future planned for us, or we can actively engage in shaping our future.

There are many conversations emerging in our neighborhood as we plan our future. When I walk around our streets and parks, I wonder how we can create a truly sustainable neighborhood — good for the environment, businesses, and the people who live here. I can see many pieces in my mind's eye like the picture on the outside of the puzzle box, but not really sure how the pieces fit together. I remember growing up though, that puzzles were always easier to put together with a friend or family, than by myself. What's your picture look like?

I hope you'll join your neighbors as we co-write the story of the place we call home, and shape the future community others will know long after we're gone. Let's put some Phun back in planning.

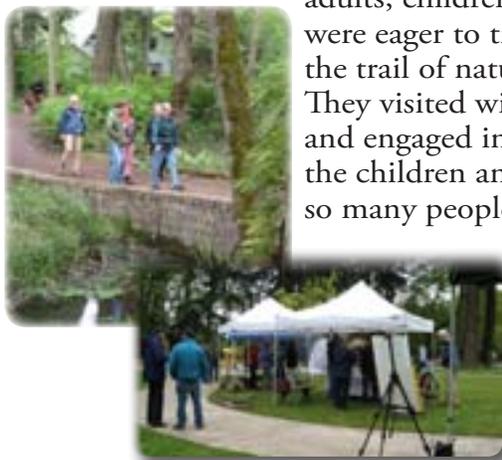
Ray Neff, RRCO Board Member



**RRCO PANCAKE BREAKFAST 2010**

*SCRROL: Building Community continues from Pg 1...*  
and having an evening of fun.

When fun like that gets started, it is good to build on it. The Santa Clara-River Road Outreach and Learning project (SCRROL) staffed a booth at the Awbrey Park Celebration on May 7 (and another at the Scottish Festival on May 21). We had maps to locate where folks live and post it notes to share concerns and ideas. We gave away brownies and signed up about 20 neighbors who want to know about future events or volunteer to help with SCRROL activities. Our Wheel of Wisdom with a dozen of those questions was a discussion starter, and Kate Perle provided native plant starts as prizes. Despite the chilly weather,



**SCRROL AT AWBREY PARK**

adults, children and dogs were eager to tromp along the trail of natural beauty. They visited with friends and engaged in romps with the children and dogs. Ever so many people weren't

aware of the River Road/Santa Clara Volunteer Library or the Emerald Park with a swimming

pool, hot tub, classes and full recreation activities. And they had no idea how the park was funded.

At the May RRCO meeting, additional questions were asked, and there was friendly quibbling about how many public schools are in our neighborhood, or what a pedestrian refuge is and how effective and safe they are.

If some of the information in these questions is new to you, RRCO and SCCO connections are ideal places for you to learn more about your neighborhood, build community, and have a lot of fun. And SCRROL will have more activities as the summer rolls along. You can sign up to volunteer on our website. We are inviting you to tell us your neighborhood story as it relates to our future and the needs of our communities. Many changes in our neighborhoods are about to occur, and SCRROL is an opportunity for you to influence the shape of our future.

We have an array of ways for you to contact us. We are compiling an e-mail list for SCRROL, and we need you to send your e-mail address to us to be notified of events as they are scheduled. SCRROL's website is <http://www.scrrol.org>. Please friend us on Facebook at <http://www.scrrol.org/facebook/>. You can e-mail us for more information at [info@scrrol.org](mailto:info@scrrol.org) or contact Jerry Finigan at [jerry@scrrol.org](mailto:jerry@scrrol.org) or Carleen Reilly [carleen@scrrol.org](mailto:carleen@scrrol.org).

Carleen Reilly, RRCO Co-Chair

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**June 4 (Saturday): Half-Day Seminar.** 12-4 PM, River Road Annex, 1055 River Road. Learn about turning grass to garden, rain water catchment, solar design, food storage and mapping your neighborhood. Free

**June 13 (Monday): RRCO General Meeting.** Adaptive gardening tool demonstration; plant swap; and learn about a playground renovation project using more sustainable features proposed for River Road/El Camino del Rio Elementary School.

**June 25 (Saturday) & June 26 (Sunday): Green Home Tours.** 11 AM both days. Meet at Rosetta Park, Benjamin and Evergreen. See gardens, solar design, rain water catchment, chickens and more. Its

casual and social. Bikes and cars ok. Free.

**July 11 (Monday): RRCO General Meeting.** RR Bike/Pedestrian improvement projects with Lee Shoemaker, City of Eugene; Eugene Rail Yard clean-up project update with Don Hanson, Or. DEQ.

**August 8 (Monday): RRCO General meeting.** Emergency preparedness and SCRROL updates.

**September (TBA): Pancake Breakfast** – Do you enjoy a good breakfast with friends? Join the PHUN as we organize and present this great community event. Contact Carleen Reilly or Jon Belcher, RRCO Co-chairs for more information on how to volunteer.

**NOTE: All RRCO Board & General Meetings are 7-9 PM at the River Road Annex, 1055 River Road**

*This is the official newsletter of the River Road Community Organization. Funds for the printing and mailing of newsletters are provided by the City of Eugene. Newsletters are produced by neighborhood volunteers and are free to residents and businesses of the neighborhood. The information provided and the views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent the position of the City of Eugene or the River Road Community Organization.*

Graphic Design: Ray Neff; Contributors: Jon Belcher, Kate Kelly, Carleen Reilly, Jan Spencer