

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

November 2015

Welcome to the RRCO e-Newsletter.

RRCO regular monthly meetings –Second Monday

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

RRCO Board meeting – third Monday 7 – 8:30 PM

River Road Annex, 1055 River Road

River Road Community Organization Meeting Agenda Monday November 9th, 2015 - 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. River Road Annex 1055 River Road

- **Introductions and Announcements** (15 minutes)

- **Our Oregon Ballot initiative** They will describe their petition for a 2016 ballot measure to increase the corporate minimum tax for businesses whose Oregon sales exceed \$25 million each year. (5 minutes)

- **City Matching Grant proposal for managing West Bank vegetation without Herbicides** Clare Strawn will explain our proposal to keep herbicides out of the West Bank Park and describe how you can help. (10 minutes)

- **Homeless Camping Issues** The Rest Stop at NW Expressway and River Road expires on 12/15. County Commissioner Pat Farr and city staffers from Parks and Open Space and Human Rights & Neighborhood Involvement will discuss the current and future situation with homelessness in our neighborhood. Possible Vote. (30 minutes)

- **Hamid Madani's proposal for redevelopment of properties at 1880 River Road, 1920 River Road & 15 W. Kourt (Just south of Pizza Hut)** Hamid and Bill Randle, Architect with Arbor South, will return with a refined proposal for a potential commercial development on these properties. They are seeking neighborhood feedback on what they are hoping to do. (30 minutes)

RRCO Board Meeting

The RRCO Executive Board will meet on Monday November 16th at 7 PM at the River Road Annex (1055 River Road)

Future Meetings

Monday December 14th Annual Holiday Dessert Potluck

Watch for your RRCO postcard, E-News or Facebook Page for future meeting dates and topics!

Land Use Updates

Oakleigh Meadow Tentative PUD Remand

Paul Conte and Simon Trautman have appealed the Planning Commission remand decision to the Oregon Land Use Board of Appeals. Stay tuned for further information.

If you have concerns or seek more information please contact Jon Belcher jbelcher@efn.org

Update: SCRRIPT

We've all heard that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Would you be willing to invest a pound of effort to prevent a 12-story building from being built in our neighborhood?

We have observed that neighbors don't get organized until they find out that a development is planned near them. By the time neighbors get motivated, the development's plans are underway and have momentum. The only way we can prevent the wrong kind of development is to work out our Area Plan and get it passed by the City Council, the Eugene Planning Commission, and Lane County Commissioners.

This area plan would define what could be built where. Are you willing to participate now rather than try to organize to fight something you don't like? Help us find other neighbors and businesses who will envision and work collaboratively on our Area Plan.

River Road Community Organization (RRCO) will be rolling out the timeline for the development of the Area Plan at the Holiday Dessert Potluck, Monday December 14 at 7:00 p.m. Do yourself and your neighborhood a favor by informing yourself of opportunities to shape your future.

Send Carleen Reilly an e-mail if you want to received the weekly River Road Community Resource Group (RR CRG) e-message. And encourage your neighbors to join the RR CRG, too. carleenr@gmail.com



**Low-Income Housing Development Neighborhood Advisory
Committee:
A proactive positive strategy**

The City of Eugene is in the process of buying a lot on River Road to develop as low income housing. **The Eugene City Council will be voting on Monday November 9th at 7:30 PM on the following motion:**

I move to approve the use of up to \$460,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds for the acquisition of 1515-1525 River Road and a \$65,000 loan from the Construction and Rental Housing Fund for the acquisition of 1505 River Road. Direct the City Manager to include these items in the FY 16 Supplemental Budget #1.

If you would like to provide testimony about that motion during the public comment period, it takes place at 7:30. Please arrive at Harris Hall (125 E. 8th Avenue) prior to then to sign up.

The City has invited community participation in the planning process. Rather than fighting against something when it is too late, let's organize to propose what would enhance our community. We need low income housing! And we want it to be an asset to the community, not a blight.

Take a moment to reflect on your assumptions about who lives in housing designed for that market. Need a reality check? **If you would like to participate in a tour of recently developed low income housing projects on the afternoon of Sunday November 15th, please contact Jon Belcher at jbelcher@efn.org for details.**

A small design committee (Jon Belcher, Clare Strawn, Ravi Logan, Cameron Ewing and some neighbors of the site) is working on recommendations of what we would like to see in the proposal for development.

We want to embrace this opportunity to proactively create an innovative development that enhances the existing community and furthers city goals to house low income residents and increase density. These objectives are not contradictory. This is a creative opportunity to adopt an innovative development framework this development that goes beyond existing practices so as to invest in a showcase of possibilities. We hope we can create a development that the City of Eugene can be proud of and that the River Road community will embrace as an asset.

We believe that a whole systems design – that integrates housing with ecological sustainability, nurtures residents' personal investment in their homes with building community within the development and with its neighbors, and supports multi-use of the property to support economic development—will pay off in long and short term benefits. Up front investments in quality will provide returns over time in energy and water sustainability. Avoiding less expensive cookie-cutter design will give the project character that increases the care and sense of ownership by tenants and integration into the existing community. Incorporating community space into the development – e.g., gardens and meeting space – would offer useful resources to the residents and neighborhood and build social capital that increases quality of life.

We will bring the recommendations to the membership at a later meeting for feedback. For more information, contact Jon Belcher at jbelcher@efn.org

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### **Volunteer neighborhood leadership needed**

October RRCO meeting introduced the Map Your Neighborhood program for emergency preparedness. The program provides training and materials for neighbors (at most 30 nearby households) to share information and plans in case of emergency.

Five block captains volunteered on Monday night. They will be inviting their neighbors to a house party to learn how they can support each other in a crisis to be sure that everyone is OK.

Now we need someone to volunteer to support the block captains. That person would distribute materials and information to people who want to host Map Your Neighborhood Activities. They would also follow up to see how the block meetings and other activities are developing and serve as a liaison to the RRCO board. There is \$1400 available to pay for materials if we can organize this initiative.

For more information, contact [Clarestrawn@gmail.com](mailto:Clarestrawn@gmail.com)

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4-J seeks historical information and artifacts

As they begin to design finishing touches for the new Howard and River Road/El Camino elementary schools, the designers are hoping to incorporate the history of River Road and these two schools. If you have any information or materials that may be of use please contact Beth Gerot at gerot_b@4j.lane.edu

Also check out the construction progress at: <http://www.4jnewschoolshoward-riverroad.org/home.html>

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### **River Road Community Greenway Initiative**

The River Road Community Organization will sponsor this initiative to address the desires of the community to manage the Willamette River West Bank greenway without herbicides. By putting collaborative infrastructure in place, we hope to engage neighbors, businesses, schools, churches and local non-profits in education and work projects that, along with appropriate eco-system design will sustain the river habitat for people, plants and animals with minimal ongoing investment by the city. This initiative builds on decades of volunteerism by River Road residents who are stewards of the greenway.

Project objectives are to:

- 1) Create a network of “Friends” groups that steward sections of the greenway in collaboration with the Park Steward program.
- 2) Educate the community about the greenway and how we can enhance this resource to increase awareness, use, and buy-in to sustain maintenance.
- 3) Institutionalize sustained involvement by developing school and community education curriculum and bi-annual clean up events.
- 4) Reach out and involve diverse community members to join work teams: high school students for service credits, campers at Nightingale camp, walking clubs who use path, other civic groups and organizations. Ask businesses and civic groups to sponsor stretches and provide incentives to workers (particularly homeless) for their volunteer service. Outreach: RRCO enews and website, talk to churches and businesses, community calendars, neighbor canvassing on own streets (in conjunction with MYN efforts) to form steward clubs; FB groups/FB events, neighborhood email networks of community activists.

Outcomes:

- 1) Collaboration with Park Stewards program to extend capacity of agency to manage the park. Five to 8 stewardship groups of neighbors covering sections of west bank from Rasor Park (mile .25) to Maynard (mile 1.75) that mobilize regular cleanup work parties
- 2) System to sustain regular involvement through communication networks, leadership and training
- 3) Public education about local eco-system and sustainable alternatives to management.
- 4) Implementation of one or more food forest sites that use permaculture principles to repair eco-system providing habitat and food for plants, animals and humans.
- 5) High school service learning curriculum involving neighborhood experts to engage students in physical activity and science education.
- 6) Public education using signage along path indicating beneficial and problematic vegetation and ways for the public to post wildlife sightings and acknowledge volunteer work.

The matching grant proposal includes names of folks who volunteer to help with the project. **If you are willing to join us in monthly weed removal activities please contact Clare Strawn at [Clarestrawn@gmail.com](mailto:Clarestrawn@gmail.com) to sign on by Tuesday, November 10th. We can't do this without your help!**

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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 cleanup 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 [jbelcher@efn.org](mailto:jbelcher@efn.org) , 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)

To unsubscribe, change information or add a name please

email [jbelcher@efn.org](mailto:jbelcher@efn.org)