

# SANTA CLARA NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

A publication of the Santa Clara Community Organization - Building a Better Community

Winter 2021-2022

## SCCO Forms a Non-profit Foundation

The Santa Clara Community Foundation was started in 2021 as a very focused, non-profit legal entity to foster community involvement and investment by organizing and funding projects that specifically benefit the residents of the Santa Clara neighborhood in the urban/rural area just north of Eugene, Oregon, and west of the Willamette River.

Our mission is to foster public-private partnerships with governments (like the City of Eugene, Lane County, and beyond), other nonprofits, local businesses, and individual entrepreneurs in projects that enhance livability, natural environment stewardship, affordability, and local economics in our neighborhood.

Find out how you can be involved to help Santa Clara thrive as a community. Participate by joining one of our committees, applying to be a board member, or volunteering on a project. Contact [foundation@santaclaracommunity.org](mailto:foundation@santaclaracommunity.org) or visit <https://santaclaracommunityfoundation.org> for more information.



## History in the Remaking

Santa Clara has an unprecedented opportunity to rehabilitate an old one room schoolhouse and turn it into a community resource for our use. Maybe you've noticed the boarded up building at 990 River Loop 2. It sits on City of Eugene property that is in the process of becoming a community park. It was one of three houses slated for demolition, but saved by community advocacy. It was built in 1901 as the "Lower Santa Clara School"

and served as the primary school for residents of Fir Grove until students began attending the brick and mortar school in 1932.

Over the intervening years it has been remodeled into a residence and will require extensive work to return it to a condition where it can be of service to our neighborhood and a focal point of community pride. The plan is to open it back up into a one room building capable of holding meetings, classes and events -a place for our neighborhood to connect, gather and celebrate all that is unique about Santa Clara today. Know that this a community barn raising project -fully volunteer run and funded. We will need the expertise, goodwill, muscle and enthusiasm of the entire community to bring this project to fruition. We are at the very beginning of this journey, negotiating with the City for control of the building and gathering our resources for the day we begin.

To manifest this project and carry other community led initiatives into the future, SCCO has fostered the **Santa Clara Community Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit** corporation that can accept charitable donations and offer tax exemptions. This new Foundation can help foster all our community initiatives: the community garden project at St. Matthew's Church, the neighborhood park adoption groups, the Fir Grove lumber milling project, and all the other great ideas that are sure to follow. This is just the beginning and we need you. Volunteer for the project of your choice, serve on the SCCO board or the Foundation board, help fundraise, collect donations, edit newsletters, rouse volunteers, lend your talents to projects that make our neighborhood more connected and resilient in every way. Dream big.

Contact [foundation@santaclaracommunity.org](mailto:foundation@santaclaracommunity.org) for more information.

## Beaver-Hunsaker Multi-Use Path Update

Lane County recently completed the first leg of a multi-use path along Beaver and Hunsaker extending from Division to almost Echo. Bicyclists, walkers and joggers were quick to put it to use.

The City of Eugene is in the planning stages of extending the West Bank Multi-Use Path north from approximately Echo and Hunsaker Lane to Wilkes. Construction could be as early as 2025. Residents along Admiral Street expressed concerns at the November SCCO meeting about being connected to the path.

There will be more opportunities to provide input to the City. To get on the 'interested parties' list, email Reed Dunbar at: [RDunbar@eugene-or.gov](mailto:RDunbar@eugene-or.gov)

## Contact Us

Email: [contact@santaclaracommunity.org](mailto:contact@santaclaracommunity.org)

Visit us on the web at: [santaclaracommunity.org](https://santaclaracommunity.org)

Find us on Facebook under: Santa Clara Community Organization

We are also on Twitter: Find us by searching Twitter for: [@sccoorg](https://twitter.com/sccoorg)

Meetings:  
1st Thursday of each month  
7:00 PM Via Zoom for now  
Find the meeting zoom link on the web at : [santaclaracommunity.org](https://santaclaracommunity.org)

SCCO meetings are the first Thursday of each month and last about 1 1/2 to 2 hours



## PEACE VILLAGE

SquareOne Villages is creating 70 units of permanently affordable, resident owned housing for people with very low-incomes, through the adaptive re-use of an underutilized church property (Peace Presbyterian Church) at the corner of Ferndale and River Road.

SquareOne Villages creates permanently affordable housing co-ops and transitional tiny home villages for people in need of housing. Since 2012, the non-profit organization has developed four villages in Lane County, —one transitional shelter program (Opportunity Village Eugene) and three permanently affordable housing co-ops (Emerald Village Eugene, Cottage Village in Cottage Grove, and C Street Co-op in Springfield).

Peace Village Co-op will include 70 new, permanently affordable housing units, including five floor plans to support a variety of households:

- tiny townhome (256sf + 112sf loft) 14 units
- tiny townhome, ADA (400sf) 4 units
- tiny townhome (384sf + 168sf loft) 20 units
- 1-bedroom flat (354sf) 24 units
- 2-bedroom townhome (768sf) 8 units

In addition to the housing units, roughly 9,000 sq. ft. of existing buildings on the site will be utilized as common facilities by the co-op to host village meetings, events, and meals.

To learn more about this fascinating project, visit <https://www.squareonevillages.org/peace>

## Ready NW Eugene

*A consortium of Santa Clara, River Road and Bethel neighborhood's emergency preparedness group*

### Santa Clara Emergency Preparedness joins Ready NW Eugene

The Santa Clara Emergency Preparedness team has been, and is now officially, collaborating with our neighborhood leaders in the River Road and Bethel areas to bring more brains to the preparedness party.

Over the last year, we have identified many projects and ideas to make our neighborhoods of NW Eugene ready and resilient and we need help implementing those outside of our monthly meetings.

A few of the project ideas:

- Planning a tabletop evacuation exercise
- Organizing the most important preparedness tips for each household and creating materials to get the word out
- Creating the emergency communications network
- Reaching out to schools and businesses
- Website updates to make the information easily accessible
- Mapping your neighborhood so each of us is prepared to take care of ourselves and to help our neighbors during a crisis.

If you have ideas or are interested in helping out, please send an email to [emergencyprep@riverroadco.org](mailto:emergencyprep@riverroadco.org)

Additional information is available on the River Road Community Organization Emergency Preparedness Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/362562784993569>

### Meetings

Ready NW Eugene meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month. Currently meetings are via Zoom and posted on our Youtube site at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHyvm3RpwB4uRqsc4u2b6jQ>

The November meeting was related to what takes place when you call 9-1-1. A special thank you to our guests from Central Lane 9-1-1 - Cindi Harper, Marcia Pendleton, Stephen King, and Andrea Chopin.

The meetings are open to everyone, regardless of where you live or what previous knowledge you have!

### Ready NW Eugene Radio Group

The RRCO Emergency Preparedness Team wants to grow our local communication network and we need neighbors to join us! This includes Santa Clara residents.

In the event of a major disaster, Family Radio Service (FRS) radios and other communication methods may be our only option to get in touch with one another. We would like to start discussing how these communications will work and who will be able to communicate. Next year we want to have training in the use of FRS radios. No prior radio experience, or even a radio, is needed. Just an interest in learning more is all you need. Email to let us know your interest.

## Social Justice in Santa Clara

SCCO has a Social Justice Committee, formed to foster and sustain a neighborhood environment that is diverse, inclusive, safe, and welcoming. The Social Justice Committee works to further educate ourselves as a community and increase the understanding that harm to one part of our community harms every part of our community. This work has included recent presentations on the history of race relations in Oregon and Eugene. Our committee meets once per month, between SCCO meetings. We have been enjoying getting to know each other and we've taken the City's Belonging Training and also Standing Up for Racial Justice's Upstander/Bystander Training. It has been helpful to learn productive ways to respond when we encounter bias or targeting. The Social Justice Committee is committed to continued education in service to our community. We encourage you to reach out with any ideas you may have to help us build a stronger community.

The SCCO Bias Response Team (BRT) grew out of this Social Justice Committee and it responds to hate crimes and bias incidents when they occur. Recently, a biracial local family was targeted by a paintball attack and the BRT was there the next day, helping clean up the mess and support the family. From that experience we developed a Hate Crimes Kit so we can be as efficient and helpful as possible if another incident occurs.

We hope that no Santa Clara community member is ever again hatefully targeted, but the BRT stands ready to respond if necessary, with a mindful ear and an open hand. The Social Justice Committee and BRT hope that every part of our community feels safe in reaching out, knowing we can help them find the resources they need to begin healing. If you are targeted, you are not alone, we are your neighbors and we care about you! While we are not emergency responders and your first stop is 9-1-1, once the emergency is over, we encourage you to contact us at (458) 209-9990 or email us at [sjc@santaclaracommunity.org](mailto:sjc@santaclaracommunity.org). We will listen and help connect you with supportive resources, and even accompany you to access those resources if you wish. Our response will be guided by you, by what support you tell us you need.

Also, you can directly contact the Oregon Department of Justice Non-Emergency Bias Response Hotline at 1-844-924-2427 and the City of Eugene's Human Rights and Neighborhood Involvement office at 541-682-5177.

We are seeking more members of the Social Justice Committee. If you are interested in joining us at our monthly meetings, please send us an email at [sjc@santaclaracommunity.org](mailto:sjc@santaclaracommunity.org).

We also need more concerned, supportive neighbors to join our Bias Response Team, which does not have regular meetings. The BRT is activated infrequently (whenever hate or bias crimes occur in Santa Clara) to support targeted people and let them know they can count on caring neighbors. If you'd like to be added to this list, please send us an email at [sjc@santaclaracommunity.org](mailto:sjc@santaclaracommunity.org)

If this topic interests you, consider signing up for the Oregon Department of Justice's newsletter - which has a wealth of educational and activist resources - by sending an email to: [YouBelong@doj.state.or.us](mailto:YouBelong@doj.state.or.us)

## Adopt a Park

### Let's take care of our parks.

Santa Clara is home to nine neighborhood parks. Three are developed while the others are undeveloped. All can use your help.

You can form a volunteer group to 'adopt' and take care of your nearby park. Some parks just need a spring and fall tune-up, while others could use monthly work parties.

The Friends of Awbrey Park have been holding five to six work parties a year for fourteen years. If you would like to contact them for advice and information, email them at

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

or contact the city at

[eugeneparkvolunteers@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:eugeneparkvolunteers@ci.eugene.or.us)

Volunteering at undeveloped parks can be a good way to learn about future park designs and amenities and possibly influence the future of a park.



The SCCO is thinking about you at this difficult time – How can we help? We can provide guidance on rental and food assistance and other topics, or connect you with a friendly neighbor if you're housebound. Call (458) 209-9990 and leave a message.

## Santa Clara Community Organization News

1250 Irvington Drive  
Eugene, Or 97404



### Next SCCO Meetings

January 6th

February 3rd  
(Board Elections)

March 3rd



### SCCO Board Elections February 3

#### Interested in being a SCCO board member?

Any resident, property owner or business owner within the neighborhood boundaries having attended at least one Santa Clara meeting online in the past year is eligible to become a board member or vote on board members. If you haven't attended a SCCO

meeting in the past year, attend the Thursday, January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting and you'll be eligible to vote for board members and/or run for a board position at the February meeting.

#### Four Board Positions Open

A call for nominations will be taken at the February meeting. Elected board members' responsibilities include sharing the Santa Clara community's points of view on critical topics in Santa Clara with city, county and state officials. Examples of topics are the Beaver-Hunsaker improvements, the Community Park, Peace Village, saving the Santa Clara schoolhouse and forming the non-profit Santa Clara Community Foundation.

**Attend any SCCO meeting via Zoom.** Check the SCCO website for instructions to log into the zoom meeting: [santaclaracommunity.org](https://santaclaracommunity.org)

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