

# SANTA CLARA NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

A publication of the Santa Clara Community Organization - Building a Better Community Fall 2024/Winter 2025

## SANTA CLARA NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS AND EVENTS

### General Meeting Presentations

**November 7 - All In: An Update on Lane County's Housing Progress.** Presenter Kate Budd is the Human Services Division Manager for Lane County. In 2023, Lane County received \$15 million from the State of Oregon to mitigate our homelessness crisis. That money was used to prevent 795 households from becoming homeless, to rehouse 220 unsheltered households into permanent housing, and to create or improve 304 emergency shelter beds. Now a second round of funding is being used to sustain these efforts and continue to build on the successes. Hear the details on this and the work happening to prevent homelessness, provide shelter, and transition households to permanent housing.

**January 2 - Building Relationships, Building Community.** A conversation with Nain Muñoz, the new principal of NEHS. We'll learn about the new culture at NEHS, discuss how we can help support the students and ways the students can be more involved in the community.

### **February 6 -**

- **Habitat Haven Backyard Certification Program**  
Barb Bryson, a board member of Lane County Audubon Society and Director of Habitat Haven, will present details about a new backyard habitat certification program in the Eugene/Springfield area. The program is run by the Lane County Audubon Society and is supported by a grant from Upper Willamette Soil and Water District.

Learn why Habitat Haven was started and how it benefits our local ecosystem. Barb will present a list of the requirements for a property to be enrolled in the program, explain the five elements of backyard habitat, and delineate the criteria for achieving the three different levels of certification that are offered. You will see photos of yards in our area that have been certified at various levels. Come learn how you can become involved in Habitat Haven as a participant or a volunteer.

- **SCCO Board Elections** scheduled to be held after the presentation.

### Events

**November 9, 10, 11 - Luper Pioneer Cemetery Historic Site** is accessible off Beacon Drive West from dawn to dusk everyday. The vehicle gate will be open VETERANS DAY weekend (Nov 9-10-11), 9 AM to 4 PM.

### **December 14 - Neighbors Helping Neighbors**

**SCCO will host a compassion project at the Irving Grange (1011 Irvington Dr, Eugene) from 10am to 12pm to fill Holiday food boxes for Awbrey Park Elementary Families.**

As the 2024 holiday season approaches, our community will come together in an effort to ensure local families have access to the meals they need. SCCO is committed to providing 20 food boxes to Awbrey Park Elementary School for families who might otherwise struggle during this festive period.

### The Heart of the Project

This initiative was born out of a desire to support our neighbors. It's about more than just food; it's about showing care, extending support, and fostering a sense of unity. Each food box is filled with shelf-stable items that can help families create their own holiday traditions and enjoy meals without the added stress of financial strain.

### Get Involved

There are numerous ways to contribute:

1. Donate food items or monetary gifts.
2. Volunteer your time to help with packaging and distribution.
3. Spread the word on social media to increase awareness and support.

### A Message of Hope

For many families receiving food over the holiday break is a reminder that they are not alone. It brings a little joy, a lot of hope, and a sense of belonging. The holidays are a time for giving, and through this project, we can all contribute to making someone's season a bit brighter...

Contact Terri Reed for more information on donation items and how you can get involved.

Email: [contact@santaclaracommunity.org](mailto:contact@santaclaracommunity.org) Please include "Holiday food boxes" in the subject line.

**SCCO General Meetings** are held the first Thursday of January, February, April, May, July, August, October, and November. Should last about 1 1/2 to 2 hours. Meetings are in person and via Google Meet.

**SCCO Board Meetings** are held the first Thursday of March, June, September and December.

For more details and virtual meeting link go to: <https://santaclaracommunity.org/scco/category/scco-meetings/>

Meeting minutes and Video presentations can be found at <https://santaclaracommunity.org/scco/scco-meeting-minutes/>

## 2nd Annual Concert in the Park was a Great Success!

### Concert at Awbrey Park

Sunday, August 4th, 2024 was a great day for the 2nd Annual Concert at Awbrey Park. The weather was warm and the crowd--enthusiastic! About 350 people joined us for music, games and good food over the course of the day. Neighbors chatted, played games, had their faces painted and connected with some local business vendors.



We couldn't have done it without the Scouts!!! Special thanks to Scouts BSA Troop 182, Santa Clara Community Foundation, Everyone's Market (River Rd.), Justice Shave Ice, El Taco Taco, local bands (The Nostalgics, Sky Lounge, Wrong Mama & Cece King), and AWESOME VOLUNTEERS.



Thanks also goes to our sponsors: the City of Eugene for awarding SCCO the Art in the Parks grant for 2024, SCCF, and SCCO.

**Events like these help our local community connect-- and connection is KEY!!! They are reminders that even in polarizing times.... we have SO MUCH MORE IN COMMON and we should create time and space to come TOGETHER.**

If you would like to see more events like these right here in Santa Clara and are willing to volunteer or donate to the cause please contact us at [contact@santaclaracommunity.org](mailto:contact@santaclaracommunity.org)

T. Reed, SCCO Event Coordinator



## Santa Clara Community Park



### Construction Update

Construction of the new park has been progressing since April 2024 and remains on schedule for early 2025 opening. Major grading operations have been completed ahead of winter construction restrictions including preparation of the large multi-use field. Most of the paved concrete paths, including the multi-use path, and trails have been built and work on the spray play, sand play, and the boulder scramble will be completed late October. The restroom building is mostly complete except for the restroom fixtures which will be installed in late December.

Most recently, a large pre-constructed pedestrian bridge was lowered into place over the drainage channel, completing a long awaited connection between the two halves of the park near the northeast corner of Madison Middle School.

M. Kosmos, Landscape Architect, City of Eugene Parks and Open

### Schoolhouse Project Update

Quick backstory for those who need it: one room schoolhouse built in 1901, remodeled to residence after 1932, on City of Eugene property, saved from demolition by optimistic community organization looking to create a "hive" for the folks of Santa Clara. Needs work.

Where we are now: We had hoped to have insurance secured and a contract signed with the City of Eugene in time to begin phase one of the schoolhouse rehabilitation project this fall. We are coming up frustratingly short on finding adequate insurance for the Foundation to be able to rehabilitate the structure over more than a 12 month window and to cover the use of volunteers for much of the project's labor. If you have any suggestions, please send them to us.

We have adopted the grounds directly around the structure and have planted blooms out front. Our structural engineer and architect have been working on plans to return the structure to its open floorplan and we'll soon have drawings to share. This winter we will be designing a capital campaign to help defray costs as we move ahead. As always, we welcome the participation of anyone who has interest and enthusiasm for this venture. It's truly a community project-by and for the Santa Clara community.

<https://santaclaracommunityfoundation.org/2022/09/27/the-schoolhouse-project/>

K. Perle, Schoolhouse Project manager

## City of Eugene Transportation updates in Santa Clara

**Beaver-Hunsaker corridor** construction should begin in late 2025 or early 2026. Improvements will be primarily along Hunsaker and will include sidewalks and bike lanes. The project is currently in the design refinement phase. One recent change to the design is the extension of the West Bank Path on Beaver Street further to the west from Ross Lane all the way to Taito Street. The project also includes improvements to the existing stormwater facility that runs below Hunsaker Lane which needs to be completed prior to street reconstruction.

**Roundabouts** are in design for two locations on Division Avenue between Fred Meyer and Taco Bell. There is a high incidence of crashes along Division, including one fatality at the yellow stutter flash crosswalk by Taco Bell. Roundabouts are an effective way to slow down traffic, reduce serious injuries, and simplify traffic flow. One roundabout would be installed at Division and Lone Oak with a second roundabout planned west of Lone Oak. Project construction is scheduled to start in 2026 or 2027.

A proposed **West Bank Path extension** is being planned to run along the west side of the gravel pits and connect the existing path on Beaver/Hunsaker north to Wilkes Drive. The city is currently surveying alternative alignments for the path construction and is performing environmental studies. The City will schedule a public meeting once the preliminary engineering process is complete. Construction is likely to begin in 2026.

**Awbrey Park Elementary School** has received a funding grant to add a separated walking space to Spring Creek Drive connecting the school to River Road. The City and 4J will be reaching out soon to neighbors about the project. Construction is scheduled for 2026.

Lane County is transferring jurisdiction of **Wilkes Drive** to the City of Eugene along with \$1.25M in funding to make livability improvements to the roadway. Changes may include enhanced pedestrian crossings, improvements to the shared use path on the north side of Wilkes Drive, and overhead lighting. The City is currently scoping the public engagement process. Construction would not start before 2026.

**Two segments of River Road** were included in the voter approved pavement bond measure. Those include Beltline to Green Lane (construction 2026) and Green Lane to Wedgewood Drive (construction 2029). The project would replace the pavement and rebuild sidewalk access ramps to ADA standards.

For more SC updates visit the Eugene Transportation Planning Projects website

<https://www.eugene-or.gov/2053/Current-Planning-Projects>

*R. Dunbar Senior Transportation Planner, City of Eugene Transportation Planning*

## Santa Clara Community Foundation BottleDrop Give Program

By donating your returnable bottles and cans to the Santa Clara Community Foundation, through BottleDrop Give (the blue bag program), you help fund projects right here in our community. Pick up a blue bag at SCCO meetings, at the SCCF table at neighborhood events, or email [bluebag@santaclaracommunityfoundation.org](mailto:bluebag@santaclaracommunityfoundation.org) and we'll deliver one (or more) to you.

Between Nov. 15 and Dec. 2, BottleDrop will be awarding an additional 20% match to the Foundation. So get those bags filled. If you have a full bag before Nov.15 email us and we'll arrange a pickup.

When you have a bag-full, you can take it to any BottleDrop drop-off location, scan the QR code on the bag to open the hatch and insert your bag.

<https://santaclaracommunity.org/scco/thank-you-santa-clara-community/>

*Tim F.- SCCF Board President*

Check the SCCO website for Santa Clara announcements, news, and events at <https://santaclaracommunity.org/>

## Lane County Resources for Those Seeking Shelter

If you or someone you know is experiencing homelessness, Lane County offers several resources to help. One of the easiest ways to start is by **dialing 211**, a service that provides information on local shelters, housing resources, and rent assistance.

The **Lane County Shelter Finder** website is another great tool, allowing users to view real-time shelter bed availability, apply for shelter entry, and find direct contact information for agencies that participate in Lane County's shelter system including the River Ave. Navigation Center.  
<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/lchsd/viz/LaneCountyShelterFinder/Summary>

For more comprehensive housing resources, including help for those fleeing domestic violence, the **Lane County Coordinated Entry** webpage provides a step-by-step guide. [www.lanecountyor.gov/housingehlp](http://www.lanecountyor.gov/housingehlp)

This webpage also includes information on how to access additional support services. Don't hesitate to reach out and explore these available options.

**Other housing resources** can be found on this webpage:

<https://www.lanecounty.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=3585881&pageId=19164203>

*K. Crowson, Deputy Project Director, River Ave. Navigation Center*

Would you like to participate in support for neighborhood diversity? To request one of our colorful, free lawn signs, please email [sjc@santaclaracommunity.org](mailto:sjc@santaclaracommunity.org)





**Santa Clara Community  
Organization News**  
1250 Irvington Drive  
Eugene, Or 97404

### Upcoming SCCO Meetings

#### General meetings:

November 7

January 2

February 6

#### Board meetings:

December 5

March 6

### SCCO GENERAL MEETINGS

1st Thursday of January, February, April, May, July, August, October, November.  
7:00 PM in person or via Google Meet. Meetings last about 1.5 to 2 hrs. Find the meeting location and Google meet link on the web at:

<https://santaclaracommunity.org>

### SCCO Board Elections February 6, 2025

Interested in being a SCCO board member?

Any resident, property owner, or business owner within the neighborhood boundaries having attended (and signed-in) at least one Santa Clara meeting in person or virtually in the past year is eligible to become a board member.

If you haven't attended a SCCO meeting in the past year, attend a meeting and sign-in at the November 2024 or January 2025 meeting and you'll be eligible to vote for board members and/or run for a board position at the February 6th, 2025 meeting.



**Five Full-term Board Positions are Open.** We're a WORKING board, not an honorary one. All members are asked to volunteer for various tasks and events all year round.

### CONTACT US

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

Visit us on the web at: <https://santaclaracommunity.org>

Find us on Facebook under: Santa Clara Community Organization



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