

SANTA CLARA NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

A publication of the Santa Clara Community Organization - Building a Better Community Summer 2025

CELEBRATE SUMMER 2025 3RD ANNUAL SANTA CLARA CONCERT

Get ready, Santa Clara! The 3rd Annual Santa Clara Concert is back, bringing music, fun, and community spirit to Awbrey Park. Hosted by the Santa Clara Community Organization, this **FREE** local event is the perfect way to round out the summer.

Enjoy an afternoon filled with live music, exciting games, and family-friendly activities. Face painting, food trucks, and local vendor booths will be on-site, offering delicious treats and helpful community information. Bring a picnic lunch or sample the fantastic food truck fare. SCCO has purchased 100 shave ice treats for guests, so come out and join us for a delightful day at the park!

Performing Artists

Alexa Cornejo Jazz Trio – A talented jazz ensemble featuring vocals, bass, drums, and piano. They specialize in jazz and jazz fusion, delivering dynamic performances with rich musical textures

Mandi Cody – Singer-songwriter and former Eugene resident, blending acoustic American roots music with gospel influences.

Ripple Vision – A groove-oriented funk band with thoughtful songwriting and improvisation, creating a unique and energetic live experience.

Connectarine – A female-fronted rock and Americana band known for their soul-soothing harmonies and intricate string arrangements. They intertwine original songs with vibrant renditions of classics from the 1960s to today.



Food Trucks

Renee's (Loaded Fries)– Offering a variety of delicious comfort foods and local favorites.

Kona Ice of North Eugene – Serving refreshing shaved ice treats in a variety of flavors.



T. Reed, SCCO Events Coordinator

Vendors

EWEB, Friends of Trees, Beyond Toxics, 541 Celebrations, SCCO, SCCF, RRSC Volunteer Library, Irving Grange/BSA Troop 182

Games in our Parks – July 22nd

Join your Santa Clara neighbors for a relaxing evening of family games. Bring a picnic, a blanket, and sit back while you enjoy a fun evening. Free Alden's Organic ice cream bars from Oregon Ice Cream Company while supplies last.

Tuesday, July 22nd — Arrowhead Park 5-7 pm

Want to organize a Games in the Park in your SC neighborhood park? SCCO will provide games, donated treats, setup, and takedown. Contact us for more information contact us at <https://santaclaracommunity.org/scco/>

Check the SCCO calendar for other Santa Clara events at
<https://santaclaracommunity.org/scco/calendar/>

14th annual Awbrey Park Wildflower Celebration

took place on Saturday, May 3rd, 2025, from 11 am to 2 pm at Awbrey Park in Eugene, Oregon.

The free, family-friendly event celebrated the park's native wildflowers, shrubs, and trees. Attendees participated in guided nature walks or explored at their own pace with a self-guided tour. A popular activity was the treasure hunt, where finding a certain number of identified plants earned participants a native plant to take home.

New to this year's celebration was a bird walk led by Katie McMinnis from the Cascade Raptor Center. Other activities included live music from local Santa Clara musicians, rock painting, kids' games, and learning about certifying backyards as pollinator-friendly.

Food trucks were also present, offering tacos and ice cream. Several local organizations had booths to share information, including the Lane County Master Gardeners Mobile Plant Clinic, Lane County Audubon Society, Boy Scout Troop 182, and the River Road - Santa Clara Voluntary Library.

The event aimed to foster appreciation for the local flora, fauna, and community connections and was sponsored by the City of Eugene's Parks and Open Space, the Santa Clara Community Organization, and the Friends of Awbrey Park.



Join the Friends of Awbrey Park for their 18th Season

The Friends of Awbrey Park formed during the winter of 2008-2009. Over the past 17 years the Friends have made incredible improvements to the park. Friends removed blackberries and invasive ivy along Spring Creek, they planted over 300 native plants, shrubs, and trees during the 2010-2011 season. Recent projects include installation of a sturdy kiosk (added as part of an Eagle Scout project), planting and upkeep of a Pollinator garden, basalt benches, and a bridge over Spring Creek at the back of the park.

Most importantly, the Friends work to restore the parks native habitat. Please consider joining Awbrey Park volunteer leaders Jesika Heikkinen and Gary Haliski, along with the rest of the group, starting in October. Projects include trail maintenance, planting, and blackberry and ivy removal. We have had a vicious invasive attack our Pollinator garden, so if you have special skills in working in Pollinator gardens, please drop by. **Work parties are from 9 am until noon, on the first Saturday of the month, October through April,** and will be followed by the 15th Annual Wildflower Celebration in early May. Tools, snacks, and beverages are provided.

Contact Jesika and Gary at
awbreyparkvolunteers@gmail.com

UPCOMING SCCO GENERAL MEETING PRESENTATIONS

August 7th

Beyond Toxics. Raevyn Thompson (Environmental and Climate Justice Organizer) will provide an overview of the organization (history, mission, and values), roles of staff, community engagement & current projects, and legislative work which includes the Bethel Clean Energy Project, Coffin Butte Landfill, Community Garden spaces and policies passed in the 2025 legislation.

October 2nd

Mobile Crisis Services of Lane County. They provide community-based response to deescalate and manage acute crises and offer follow-up care and coordination to ensure ongoing support for youth and adults

Lane County Stabilization Center. They offer 24/7 access for anyone in Lane County experiencing a behavioral health crisis with immediate triage and coordination with long term support options for youth and adults

What is the Santa Clara Community Organization (SCCO)?

SCCO is the recognized neighborhood association of the Santa Clara area and open to all who wish to participate. We are neighborhood volunteers who advocate to decision makers and municipalities on behalf of residents about upcoming issues and opportunities that may affect our area. We serve the community by engaging in neighborhood planning, hosting free events, providing educational opportunities, adopting parks, running a community garden, and trying to be good neighbors. We strive to provide a forum for civil discourse and the exchange of ideas.

We do not agree on everything but feel a responsibility to foster and contribute to a community where we can enjoy open, civil discussions on all topics. We are not political or religious, do not endorse candidates but appreciate the use of a church to hold meetings. We work toward an increased level of connectedness and resilience for the entire neighborhood.

SCCO meetings are a forum for members* of our community who share a vision of a safe, healthy, and welcoming community to meet one another and find opportunities to volunteer to manifest that vision. Get involved today.

**SC residents, SC business owners, and SC property owners.*

SCCO general meetings are 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.

A LEGACY PROJECT FOR SANTA CLARA

SUPPORT SANTA CLARA SCHOOLHOUSE PROJECT TODAY

At Santa Clara Community Foundation, we believe that preserving our shared history is a powerful way to honor the past and inspire future generations. That's why we're launching a vital restoration project to save and revitalize the Lower Santa Clara School. This project isn't just about bricks and mortar — it's about community, identity, and legacy.

The Lower Santa Clara schoolhouse on River Loop 2 is where we have set our sights. Picture a lovingly restored building available for community use. Summer concerts that spill out into our community park, adult classes, meeting space, a venue for reunions and celebrations, a location for summer day camps for our neighborhood children, a nexus for emergency preparedness. This project will allow our community to host more events, build deeper relationships, and foster greater neighborhood resilience into the future.

The idea is simple; build community around a community center. The project is complex; a community owned resource on Santa Clara Community Park land restored with the goodwill, dedication, ingenuity, and generosity of neighbors. That's where you come in. We are actively fundraising \$250,000 for the project.

Built in 1901, time has taken its toll on the Lower Santa Clara Schoolhouse. The structure now faces critical deterioration, and without urgent intervention, we risk losing it forever.

Our restoration plan includes:

- Structural stabilization
- Preservation of original architectural features
- Environmental updates for accessibility and sustainability
- Community programming and educational outreach

WHY SHOULD I DONATE TO THIS PROJECT WHEN THERE IS SO MUCH NEED ALL AROUND ME?

With national economic uncertainty, global climate crisis, and wars being waged worldwide, it is easy to feel overwhelmed. Resilience, in all its forms, is the antidote to that situation and community relationships are how we get there. A place where we build those relationships is the missing ingredient. Your donations are tax deductible and not spent on administration. We are volunteer led and leverage every cent with in-kind donations from community partners.

HOW MUCH SHOULD I CONSIDER DONATING?

Only you know the answer to that question. We are not asking for recurring monthly or yearly donations (of course we will accept them) but instead the capital to lift this incredible vision off the ground. We are thinking about it in terms of 250 people donating \$1,000 each or 500 folks at \$500 each, or..... you get the picture. All donations are gratefully appreciated. Kate wrote her check knowing that investing in the future of the community will pay lifelong dividends for everyone, not just one person. We think that sounds like a wise investment.

Schoolhouse Project details: <https://santaclaracommunityfoundation.org/the-schoolhouse-project/>

Donate online: <https://santaclaracommunityfoundation.org/donate-to-sccf/> (select the Schoolhouse Project box)

Write a check made out to Santa Clara Community Foundation. Denote "Schoolhouse Project" in the memo line and mail to: Santa Clara Community Foundation, PO Box 41292, Eugene, OR 97404

Want to talk to a person about the project or have Kate meet you to discuss it?

Call Kate Perle (Project Manager) at 443-264-1387

K. Perle

SCCO Board meetings – March, June, September, and December. SCCO residents are welcome to view the live meeting via Google Meet. But will not be able to participate. Meeting minutes and Video presentations can be found at <https://santaclaracommunity.org/scco/scco-meeting-minutes/>

The River Avenue Navigation Center

If you're interested in being part of the ongoing conversation about the Navigation Center, we warmly invite you to join us at our monthly meetings. Please see the calendar on our website for the next meeting.

<https://www.esslanecounty.com/community-engagement>

The Navigation Center is a 75-bed emergency shelter for adults experiencing homelessness. We provide case management, mental health supports, employment readiness, and tenant education courses to support our residents with self-sufficiency.

We are a low barrier program—meaning we welcome people as they are—removing unnecessary hurdles so that more individuals can access safety, stability, and the support they need to begin rebuilding their lives.

The Navigation Center actively works to address any impact our presence may have on the community. If you have a question, concern, or comment—please feel free to reach out! We understand that living near a program like ours may raise concerns, and we want to assure you that maintaining a clean, quiet, and safe environment—for both our residents and our neighbors—is a top priority.

Call: 541-897-9771 or email hailey.finnigan@equitableolutions.com

H. Finnigan, Deputy Program Director

Would you like to participate in support for neighborhood diversity? To request one of our colorful, **FREE** lawn signs (while supplies last), Email: sjc@santaclaracommunity.org





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

Upcoming SCCO 2025 Meeting Schedule

SCCO General:

- August 7
- October 2
- November 6

SCCO Board:

- September 4
- December 4

SCCO MEETINGS

1st Thursday of each month. 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: santaclaracommunity.org

General meetings are January, February, April, May, July, August, October, November.

Board meetings are March, June, September, and December

CONTACT US

Email: contact@santaclaracommunity.org

Visit us on the web at:
santaclaracommunity.org

Find us on Facebook under:
[Santa Clara Community
Organization](https://www.facebook.com/SantaClaraCommunityOrganization)



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