

SANTA CLARA NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

A publication of the Santa Clara Community Organization - Building a Better Community Winter 2026



Join Us in Bringing the Santa Clara Schoolhouse Back to Life

Built in 1901, the Santa Clara Schoolhouse is a treasured neighborhood landmark that once served as a place of learning, gathering, and shared community life. Today, the Santa Clara Community Foundation invites neighbors, friends, and supporters to help restore this historic building and transform it into a vibrant, inclusive community center for generations to come.

The Schoolhouse Project is a community-powered effort to preserve our past while investing in our future. Once restored, the schoolhouse will host classes, meetings, events, celebrations, and everyday moments that strengthen neighborhood connections.

A Clear Vision with Measurable Impact

Our fundraising goal is \$250,000 over 18–24 months, beginning with a Phase 1 goal of \$100,000 to stabilize and restore the building. The project is organized into transparent, fundable phases so donors can see progress at every step:

- Phase 1: Reconstruction & Restoration (\$100,000 | Months 1–12)** Roof, foundation, walls, windows, siding, doors, and exterior paint.
- Phase 2: Core Systems Upgrade (\$50,000 | Months 12–18)** Plumbing, electrical, HVAC, and ADA accessibility improvements.
- Phase 3: Interior Fit-Out (\$50,000 | Months 18–24)** Floors, walls, restrooms, kitchen, lighting, and interior finishes.
- Phase 4: Site & Community Activation (\$25,000 | Months 18–24)** Landscaping, signage, furnishings, and community launch activities.

Contingency (\$25,000) Reserved for unforeseen needs to protect the project and donor investment.

Powered by the Community

Fundraising will run alongside construction through grants, community outreach, crowdfunding, and local events. A public fundraising tracker will share progress and keep everyone connected to the journey.

Our message is simple:

- Preserve a historic neighborhood treasure
- Create a practical, welcoming community hub

Build a lasting, self-sustaining resource for Santa Clara

How You Can Help

With your support, a beloved landmark will open its doors once again—this time as a thriving home for community, collaboration, and celebration.

Donors will be recognized through tiered acknowledgments, with permanent recognition for lead supporters. ***You'll receive a receipt acknowledging your tax-deductible gift.***

Visit <https://santaclaracommunityfoundation.org/donate-to-sccf/>

and be sure to dedicate your donation to **The Schoolhouse Project.**



It's tree planting time!

SCCF/SCCO has fruit trees grown by our neighbors at Eugene Wholesale Nursery donated to raise funds for the schoolhouse. Limited supplies of Bosc, Anjou, Red Bartlett, and Comice pears, Shinseiki asian pears, and Italian prune plums. These are 5' tall, robust trees ready to provide you with a lifetime of fruit. Supplies are limited, secure yours today. Make a tax deductible donation of \$100 and plant your tree today.

15th Awbrey Park Wildflower Celebration May 2, 2026

The 15th annual Awbrey Park Wildflower Celebration will be on May 2nd, from 11 am until 2 pm.

There will be two guided tours as well as the opportunity to take a self-guided tour. Discover native flowers, shrubs, and trees. The Friends of Awbrey Park will be stationed throughout the park to help you find trillium, lupine, red Columbine, bleeding heart, violets, fairy bells, false Solomon's Seal, Oregon myrtle, and much, much more. Other items to look forward to:

- The very popular Treasure Hunt – Search for native plants and earn a native plant while supplies last. Plants are provided by the City of Eugene.
- Live Music from Santa Clara musicians
- Rock Painting – Rocks and paint provided. You make up your design.
- Kids games on the lawn plus three play areas for toddlers through age 12
- Horseshoes
- Food Trucks



Meet Santa Clara organizations and learn about their initiatives:

- The Santa Clara Community Organization – Find out the work that the SCCO does.
- The Santa Clara Community Foundation – The SCCF supports several projects, including renovating the old (1901) schoolhouse on River Loop 2 and restoring Hileman Landing
- Lane County Master Gardeners mobile plant clinic will be available to answer questions.
- The Irving Grange will surprise you with all of the activities that they put on
- Boy Scout Troop 182 – Thank the young men who have helped chip our trails for many years and been responsible for the flourishing natives on 'Boy Scout Bank'
- CERT, Eugene EMCOMM, and Ready Northwest will be at the event to give important information about Community Emergency Response and Emergency Communication.
- Learn about the River Road Santa Clara Volunteer Library. They have over 13,000 items, including fiction and nonfiction for adults and children, audiobooks, and DVDs.
- Meet the Friends of Awbrey Park. The Friends just completed their 18th year of restoring and maintaining the park.



Bring a picnic. Children are more than welcome. The park features three playground areas. One for 2-5 years old and two for 6-12 years. There is also a large playfield, a pollinator garden, Spring Creek and a small forest where you will find woodpeckers, mallards, newts, and salamanders.

For more information, please contact Kelsey Irvine, Native Plant/Waterways Volunteer Coordinator, at 541-228-5349 or KIrvine@eugene-or.gov

2026 SCCO General Meeting Dates and Topics

March 5 – 4J Schools; SCCO Board Elections

May 7 – Emergency Preparedness

June 4 – BEST; Kids' Summer Fun Opportunities

July – No meeting

August 6 – Planning for Retirement/Financial Literacy

September 3 – Candidate Forum and Voter Literacy

Most in-person general meetings are held at Messiah Lutheran Church 3280 River Road from 7-9pm

Thanks to Messiah Lutheran Church for steadfastly and graciously providing a meeting space

Subscribe to receive notifications of new posts by email, and get our regular SCCO e-newsletter, too!

<https://santaclaracommunity.org/scco/>

Want to Enhance a Santa Clara area Park?

City of Eugene Parks

Volunteer to adopt a Santa Clara Park or join an existing group send an email to City of Eugene Parks: eugeneparkvolunteers@ci.eugene.or.us

Friends of Awbrey Park - Work parties are from 9 am until noon, on the first Saturday of the month, October through April. Meet at Awbrey Park River Road and Spring Creek Drive



Friends of Wendover - Work parties meet on the second Saturday, Nov - May from 10 AM-12 PM. Meet at Wendover Street east of River Rd, south of Beacon Dr

Lane County Parks

Hileman Landing - Hileman Heros work parties meet the last Saturday of most months. [Go to this webpage to sign up:](https://santaclaracommunityfoundation.org/2026/01/29/hileman/)



<https://santaclaracommunityfoundation.org/2026/01/29/hileman/>

Summer Games in the SC Parks

Check the SCCO calendar for the 2026 Games in the Parks schedule. **Thanks to Oregon Ice Cream Company** for providing Alden's Organic treats for park game nights.

SCCO general meetings are the first Thursday of February, March, May, June, August, September, November, and December.

Meetings are in person and via Google Meet from 7pm to 9pm lasting about 1 1/2 to 2 hours.

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

DONATE TO THE SCCO GREEN FOOD DRIVE

The Santa Clara Community Organization is hosting a Green Food Drive to benefit Food for Lane County. A Green Food Drive is a digital drive of monetary donations in lieu of, or in addition to, a physical food donation. Please make your donation today to help us ensure our neighbors have access to nutritious food to live healthy and active lives.



<https://www.giveqab.com/campaigns/scco-green-food-drive-2026>

All funds donated on this page go directly to Food for Lane County. For every dollar donated, Food for Lane County can access and distribute two meals.

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY: THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVES!

This holiday season, **SCCO** and **St. Matthew's Episcopal Church** partnered to host two incredible events—the **Thanksgiving Food Drive** and the **Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Drive and Coffee Hour**—and the impact was truly heartwarming.

Thanksgiving Food Drive: Together, we provided holiday meals to families in need. **St. Matthew's Episcopal Church generously supplied 12 turkeys**, while **SCCO contributed all the fixings for 12 complete holiday meals**, along with **gift cards for perishables**. Thanks to your generosity, we raised **\$1,073** to support this effort. A special thank you to **Grocery Outlet on River Rd.** for donating **reusable bags** to help transport food to families.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Drive and Coffee Hour (December 17): Thanks to your generosity, we raised **nearly \$1,800** and supported **20 families**, helping them bridge the Christmas holiday break with essential meals. Neighbors came together to **fill food boxes and connect over coffee**, turning this event into a true celebration of community spirit. We also extend heartfelt thanks to **St. Matthew's Episcopal Church for providing space for the event**, and to **Everyone's Market at 3901 River Rd.** for their generous donation of Campbell's soup products, which added comfort and warmth to many holiday tables. A big thank you as well to **Grocery Outlet on River Rd.** for providing **boxes** to make food distribution easier.

Together, across both events, we raised nearly \$2,900 to support local families with food during the holiday season.

Your kindness and commitment make a real difference. Together, we're building a stronger, more caring community. Stay tuned for future opportunities to give back and keep the momentum going!

THE COMMUNITY GARDEN COTTAGES AT ST. MATTHEW'S

Our mission is simple yet powerful: to provide safe, stable, and supportive transitional housing for individuals in the Eugene/Springfield area seeking a fresh start. Through a two-year rent-free program, personalized case management, and community connection, we help residents build income stability, secure permanent housing, and improve overall well-being.

In 2022, what began as an idea right here in Santa Clara, has grown into a thriving program with three cottages, volunteer support, and partnerships that empower neighbors to transition from homelessness to permanent housing. In just over three years, we've welcomed residents, celebrated graduates, and created a space where dignity and opportunity thrive. Would you like to help us continue this work? To learn more or donate, go to <https://stmatthewscottages.org>

SCCO Board meetings – January, April, and October. 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/>

Announcements



Summer Vibes are Coming!

The **4th Annual Santa Clara Concert in the Park** will return to the neighborhood in August 2026. Keep an eye out for more details soon—dates, performers, and fun activities are on the way! We hope to see you there, again!



15th year of the Santa Clara Community Garden,

sponsored by SCCO.

The garden, located behind St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 4110 River Road, has been managed by SCCO, PLAZA, and with the church staff support. All garden plots are full right now, and we are going through the process of renewing plots for the coming year. Stay tuned for the next 15 years. Contact Peter at: thurstop@gmail.com

Better Eugene-Springfield Transportation (BEST)

Changes are going to happen on River Road, and BEST wants these changes to reflect what you and our community needs. To make sure your voice is heard, **please answer this 5-minute survey** about what is working on River Road and what is not.

<https://www.best-oregon.org/better-streets/river-road/>

Or scan the QR code



Results will be presented to the City, LTD, and Lane County BEFORE plans are drawn, maximizing your voice in this process to make River Road safer and better for the community.





SCCO MEETINGS

General meetings are February, March, May, June, August, September, November, and December

Board meetings are January, April, and October,

CONTACT US

Email:

contact@santaclaracommunity.org

Visit us on the web for the latest neighborhood news, events calendar, and more at:
<https://santaclaracommunity.org/scco/>

Find us on Facebook under:
Santa Clara Community Organization



In This Issue

- Santa Clara Schoolhouse project
- 15th Awbrey Park Wildflower Celebration
- Volunteer in a Santa Clara Park
- Neighbors Helping Neighbors
- General Meeting Topics
- Meeting Schedule
- SCCO Board Elections

Upcoming SCCO 2026 Meeting Schedule

SCCO General:

March 5

May 7

June 4

SCCO Board:

April 2

SCCO Board Elections March 2026

Interested in being a SCCO board member?

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

Four Board Positions Open

A call for nominations will be taken at the March meeting. This is a working board whose members are expected to aid in furthering the aims of SCCO as well as share the community's points of view on critical topics in Santa Clara with city, county and state officials.

Attend any SCCO meeting in person or via Google Meet. Check the SCCO website for location or instructions to log into the Google meeting: <https://santaclaracommunity.org/scco/>



Subscribe to the online blog to receive notifications of new posts by email, and get our regular SCCO e-newsletter, too! santaclaracommunity.org