

SANTA CLARA NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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

Winter 2022-2023

PEACE VILLAGE UPDATE

Construction on Peace Village, the 70-unit affordable housing project at the corner of River Road and Ferndale, began in October and is scheduled for completion by the end of next November. This is the largest project to date of SquareOne Villages, a non-profit formed 10 years ago in response to the crisis in our community around housing and homelessness. SOV's mission is to create democratic communities with homes that are permanently affordable and environmentally sustainable.

Since its formation in 2012, SOV has built a non-congregate shelter (Opportunity Village Eugene) and three housing projects in Eugene, Springfield and Cottage Grove. Each project is governed by a co-op consisting of the residents. Peace Village will be a "limited equity co-op" in which each household owns equity in the housing limited to \$5000 plus 3% simple interest. Unlike most affordable housing projects, residents in a limited equity co-op are owners of the co-op rather than tenants.

The project is being built on land formerly owned by Peace Presbyterian Church and purchased by SOV last year with funds from the American Rescue Plan Act. The congregation received a 25-year lease for the worship and fellowship space as part of the sales agreement. One of the existing buildings will be converted for use by the housing co-op and another building will be shared by the co-op and the congregation. Most of the homes are considered "tiny homes", under 400 square feet plus a loft. Eight of the homes are two-bedroom townhomes (768 sf) and four are ADA units (400 sf). The project is being built by Dorman Construction. Property management will be handled initially by SOV.

Monthly payments for these homes will range from \$450 to \$750, depending on the size of the home. Households must be below 60% of area median Income (AMI) to qualify. SOV will begin accepting applications in the summer of 2023. People interested in applying may sign up to receive notification when applications will become available at <https://www.squareonevillages.org/peace>.



Summer 2022 Game Night in the Park events were a huge success!

SCCO sponsored **Game Nights** in 9 Santa Clara parks. These were a wonderful way to meet your neighbors and fellow Santa Clarans.

There were lots of activities for the all ages. Families from each neighborhood and beyond joined in the fun: played games, brought chairs, and a picnic, met neighbors and learned more about Santa Clara.

*A big thank you to our friends at **Cosmic Bliss** for donating free Chocolate Bliss bars for everyone to enjoy!*



Contact Us

Email: contact@santaclaraorganization.org

Visit us on the web at:
santaclaracommunity.org

Find us on Facebook under: Santa Clara Community Organization

We are also on Twitter: Find us by searching Twitter for: @sccoorg

Meetings:
1st Thursday of each month
7:00 PM in person or via Zoom
Find the meeting location and zoom link on the web at :
santaclaracommunity.org

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

News from SCCO Social Justice Committee

Did you know that your neighborhood organization, SCCO, has a Social Justice Committee (SJC)? We formed in early 2021, in response to some incidents of hate and bias in the neighborhood. Here is our Mission Statement:

SCCO's SJC will work with residents and local institutions (i.e., schools, churches, businesses, city and county government, and police) to foster and sustain a neighborhood environment that is diverse, inclusive, safe, and welcoming; encourage the implementation of practices, projects, and events that help educate our community and prevent harmful bias incidents. The SJC will effectively respond to hate crimes and bias incidents when they occur.

SJC meets monthly, and we have several current and ongoing projects. Our projects include: supporting the Black Student Union and other affinity groups at North Eugene High School; Social Justice lawn signs; and we make a short presentation on social justice at every general monthly meeting of SCCO. The arm of SJC which responds to incidents of hate and bias is called the Bias Response Team. Both SJC and the Bias Response Team are open to new members. If you are interested in becoming a new member of the SJC or Bias Response team, please email sjc@santaclaracommunity.org

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



Santa Clara Community Garden Recognized for a Decade of Gardening

The Santa Clara Community Garden (SCCG) was initiated by the Santa Clara Community Organization (SCCO) a decade ago in cooperation with Huerto de la Familia and Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church in Santa Clara. A garden shed was constructed by volunteers and waterlines connected to serve 40 garden plots. These garden plots are made available for gardeners to grow food for their families. The garden continues to provide vegetables to the food pantry run by the church.



In recent years Lily Price and other gardeners have grown and maintained a flower bed at the entrance to the garden. This past year George Price painted and put up a lattice structure next to the flowers and placed a sign on it announcing the garden and its start date - 2012.

A dedication of the garden entrance was held on November 13, 2022 to acknowledge a decade of gardening and the entrance improvements. Lainie Allen, rector of the parish, read the following at the dedication:

We at St Matthew's Episcopal Church are thrilled to provide the space and support for a wonderful collaboration between us, the Santa Clara Community and Centro Latino Americano. We LOVE the magic that happens here as the gardeners work and nurture the soil and the plants. Thank you for your partnership with us and with one another. I'd like to offer a Blessing for this Garden and Gardeners: Loving Creator, may Your blessing be in this Garden. Over the soil, seeds, and plants. Over the hands and tools. May this trellis be a symbol of collaboration and hospitality – welcoming all Gardeners here and providing support for the work in this beautiful space. Bless the labor of each Gardener with rain and sunshine that new life might spring up and we might indeed be at one with the integrity of all creation. May we stay true to our conviction to be faithful stewards of this Garden. Amen.

The Santa Clara Community Garden has plots available. More information may be obtained by contacting Peter at: thurstop@gmail.com.

Reed Dunbar, Transportation Planner for the City of Eugene, provided updates to Santa Clara transportation projects at our November meeting.

Beaver-Hunsaker corridor improvements should begin in 2024. Improvements will be primarily along Hunsaker and will include sidewalks and bike lanes. The project is currently in the design refinement phase. There will be more public outreach, including presentations at our SCCO meetings in 2023.

Intersection improvements at Hunsaker and River Road have been pushed back due to bids coming in higher than anticipated. This project includes putting in a westbound travel lane on Hunsaker at the intersection and sidewalks that will connect to the Beaver-Hunsaker corridor improvements. The project will also have a protected intersection feature for bicyclists. This design will be safer for people riding bicycles because it eliminates conflicts with automobiles by providing separate signal phases.

Roundabouts are being considered for two locations on Division between Fred Meyer and Taco Bell. There is a high incidence of crashes along Division, including a fatality at the flashing light signal 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.

A proposed West Bank Path extension would run north along the gravel pits and connect the existing path to Wilkes Drive. The city will be doing outreach in 2023. This will include outreach to residents along proposed pathways who have expressed concerns about increased traffic and safety. City staff will work with SCCO to scope outreach activities.

The city is also looking at a pedestrian/bicycle bridge over Beltline, west of River Road, that would connect River Road with Santa Clara. The purpose is to give bicyclists and pedestrians a safer way to travel between the two areas. There is a federal grant that targets connecting communities that have been separated by major highways. This project would meet that objective. Grant recipients have not been announced.

Finally, a city bond was recently passed that includes \$15 million for enhancing walking and biking safety. The city would like input on specific projects that would enhance walking and biking connections as well as safety for all transportation system users. They will be contacting groups such as the SCCO and then bring back requests with the intent to compile a list of projects in November of 2023. The list will be presented to Eugene City Council for approval.

Adopt a Park Let's take care of our parks.

Santa Clara is home to several city parks, including nine Neighborhood Parks, a Natural Area Park along the river, and a future 35-acre Community Park. There are also two county parks. All can use your help.

You can form a volunteer group to 'adopt' and take care of your near-by 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. You can contact them for advice and information by emailing them at awbrey-parkvolunteers@gmail.com

[Wendover Park volunteers](#) hold monthly work parties. To join us, contact karenla@uoregon.edu

Or contact the city at eugeneparkvolunteers@ci.eugene.or.us

If you are interested in volunteering at the county parks (Hileman or Whitely Landing). Email: laneparks@lanecountyor.gov

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.



15th Year Anniversary

Friends of Awbrey Park

Join our work parties on the first Saturday of each month from October through April.

Then celebrate our 15th year together at our annual Wildflower Celebration in the Spring of 2023

Santa Clara Community Organization News

1250 Irvington Drive
Eugene, Or 97404



Next SCCO Meetings

January 5th

February 2nd
(Board Elections)

March 2nd



SCCO Board Elections February 2, 2023

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. If you haven't attended a SCCO meeting in the past year, attend the Thursday, January 5th meeting and you'll be eligible to vote for board members and/or run for a board position at the February meeting.

Five Board Positions Open

A call for nominations will be taken at the February 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. Examples of topics are the Beaver-Hunsaker improvements, the Community Park, Peace Village, saving the Santa Clara schoolhouse, and the River Road-Santa Clara Neighborhood Plan.

Attend any SCCO in person or via Zoom. Check the SCCO website for location or instructions to log into the zoom meeting:
santaclaracommunity.org

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