

# Neighborhood News

The Official Newsletter of Jefferson Westside Neighbors



## April 2007

### JEFFERSON WESTSIDE NEIGHBORS MEETING NOTICE APRIL 10, 2007

\*\*\* NOTE OUR NEW LOCATION \*\*\*  
First United Methodist Church; 1376 Olive St.  
MEETING INFORMATION ON THE WEB:  
[jwneugene.org/april](http://jwneugene.org/april)

#### GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

- General meeting called to order. 7:00 p.m.
- New agenda items from members. 7:10 to 7:15 p.m

If you have a new agenda item, please notify one of the co-chairs by Noon the day of the meeting.

- Agenda adjustments. 7:15-7:20 p.m.  
By two-thirds vote, the current meeting's agenda topics and allocated times, as well as the scheduled adjournment time may be adjusted.
- Reports from co-chairs. Recap of past year from outgoing officers 7:20-7:40 p.m.
- Neighborhood topics and actions. 7:40-9:00 p.m.

o Executive Board Elections. (45 minutes)  
Chair, Vice-chair, and five board members-at-large, for one year terms.

For more information, see: [jwneugene.org/elections](http://jwneugene.org/elections)  
o Action on Infill Compatibility Standards (ICS) project – Goals statement. (10 minutes)

For more information, see: [jwneugene.org/infill](http://jwneugene.org/infill)  
o Action on City's Minor Code Amendments project (MiCAP) — Prioritization. (15 minutes)

For more information, see: [jwneugene.org/amendcode](http://jwneugene.org/amendcode)  
o Report on City budget process. (10 min.)

For more information, see:  
[jwneugene.org/citybudget](http://jwneugene.org/citybudget)

- General meeting adjourned. 9:00 p.m.

.....

#### Upcoming JWN Meetings

##### JWN Executive Board Tuesday April 17

6:45 pm to 8:30 pm

McNail-Riley House

NW corner of 13th and Jefferson

##### General Membership Meeting Tuesday May 8th

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

First United Methodist Church  
1376 Olive Street

#### Visit JWN on the Web at [jwneugene.org](http://jwneugene.org)

for more information about meeting agendas, JWN financial summaries, minutes of past meetings, volunteer opportunities, and news and events in the neighborhood.



A viable neighborhood is a community; and a viable community is made up of neighbors who cherish and protect what they have in common.

Wendell Berry

#### Viewpoint:

### City's plans to amend land use code will impact neighborhood residents

By Paul Conte, Co-chair

The City's "Minor Code Amendment Process" (MiCAP), initiated last December and continuing through next Fall, will likely have more than "minor" impacts on residents of JWN and other neighborhoods. If MiCAP is conducted in a competent and equitable manner, the process could potentially bring significant improvements to development standards and processes that affect established residential neighborhoods. For example, one proposed amendment would clarify the implementation of City Council's October 2000 prohibition against alley-access only lots, and thus fix the current code's poorly written language which (according to some Planning staff) allows developers to circumvent the prohibition.

On the other hand, the residential code could be made considerably worse. There are proposed amendments, which if adopted, would overturn Council's prohibition against alley-access only lots and would reduce R-1 zone minimum lots sizes to potentially allow many new alley-access only lots to be created *before adequate infill standards are adopted*.

MiCAP may also make substantial changes – for better or worse – to land use code that effects natural resource protection and commercial and industrial development.

#### Almost 200 amendments submitted

Two public "open houses" were held in December and January. From these public meetings and e-mail submissions, the MiCAP team produced a list of about 200 proposed amendments and a list of individual comments from meeting participants.

The list of proposed amendments is an essential starting point, of course. But what wasn't adequately captured in the project record of these two open houses is that the overwhelming preponderance of participants expressed strong support for two main categories of code amendments:

- To protect established neighborhoods against the negative impacts of incompatible infill; and
- To protect natural resources against inappropriate development

Thus, the project appears to be moving to the next step in the process – selection and prioritization of proposed amendments – *without* adequate incorporation of this crucial public input. Because many of the people who participated in the two "open houses" may not desire or be able to attend the next public meeting(s) where the focus is on prioritization and selection, the next phase of the process may not fully and accurately reflect public intent.

In February, concern over a variety of problems in the process led to a letter signed by thirty leaders from sixteen neighborhood associations identifying problems with the project and recommending specific steps to get the project back on track. In response, a new description of the MiCAP process and tentative schedule was created and has been posted on the City's Web site.

Unfortunately, as this newsletter went to press, the MiCAP project team still hasn't provided adequate information and assistance so ordinary citizens, who aren't land use code experts, can efficiently and effec-

tively understand the scope and impacts of proposed amendments. For example, the sixty-page document listing the amendments has no index or cross-reference, and only a single, coarse categorization (e.g., "Commercial", "Residential", etc.) There also has been no means for citizens to submit comments and have those comments associated with the published list of proposals. Thus, public participants have very limited ability to share information with one another through MiCAP.

The JWN Executive Board is working to assure the MiCAP project team fixes deficiencies in the process before pressing ahead with decisions on which amendments will get full consideration by the Planning Commission and City Council. Members of the board are also working on recommendations for code changes that will further the goals adopted by the JWN membership, particularly with respect to protecting the character and stability of the neighborhood.

#### What can you do?

You can learn much more about MiCAP and find links to the City's Web site and on-line documents at: [jwneugene.org/micap](http://jwneugene.org/micap).

At this point, it's difficult for most citizens to absorb the many technical aspects of land use code, not to mention the various schemes that have been suggested for selecting and prioritizing proposed amendments under MiCAP. Thus, for many people, the most practical step is to send an e-mail to the MiCAP project team urging they promptly improve the process and provide the kind of information and support required to participate in a meaningful way.

You can also express which *kinds* of problems you think area most in need of attention in this round of code amendments. For example, if you're concerned about the impact of negative infill, or about the protection of natural resources, you can recommend the highest priority be assigned to code amendments that address one or both of these problems. Send your e-mails:

TO: [codeamendment@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:codeamendment@ci.eugene.or.us)  
CC: [co-chairs@jwneugene.org](mailto:co-chairs@jwneugene.org)  
Subject: MiCAP comments

If you have any questions or comments about MiCAP, please contact the JWN Chair (see page 3).

*Opinions expressed are those of the author.*



**Eugene Neighborhood Services Policy Statement:** This is the official newsletter of the Jefferson Westside Neighbors. Newsletters are published courtesy of the City of Eugene. Newsletters are produced by neighborhood volunteers and are free to the residents and businesses of the neighborhood. Space is available for letters to the editor with editorial comment from the neighbors. Signed letters will be printed as space permits. Editorials express the authors view and not that of the neighborhood association, the City's elected officials or city staff.



Visit Neighborhoods on the Web:  
[www.eugene-or.gov](http://www.eugene-or.gov)

## JWN plays key role in building neighborhood community

Over the past year, the JWN Executive Board, together with many neighborhood volunteers, played a key role in protecting and enhancing the livability and sense of community in the Jefferson and Westside neighborhoods. Here's a concise recap of some of the activities and accomplishments. You can help keep our great neighborhoods safe and thriving by volunteering to help with the coming year's JWN activities. (See page 3.)

**Land use and compatible development:** City Council adopted a set of policy and code amendments to protect a fifteen block area of Jefferson neighborhood from the seriously incompatible infill development allowed by the R-2 zone; won an appeal that overturned a "gerrymandered" lot partition on W. 13th Ave. that would have thrown open hundreds of lots to alley-access triplexes and fourplexes jammed behind existing houses; negotiated a "win-win-win" Measure 37 agreement among residents, the City, and the owner of a property on W. 10th Ave.; blocked an attempt to have City Council send the model infill standards in the Chambers Special Area Zone back to the Planning Commission for possible weakening; submitted grant application for "JWN PlanJam 2007" event;

**Public safety:** Held one of Eugene's two "National Night Out" events in Charnel-Mulligan Park; Police Department officers presented program on household and neighborhood safety. **Traffic and transportation:** Prevented removal of on-street parking on Polk Street without resident involvement; began assessment of potential EmX (bus rapid transit) route through neighborhood. **Natural resources and environment:** Held stream cleanup and native vegetation planting work party on the section of Amazon Canal that runs through the Jefferson neighborhood; engaged JWN as a "target" neighborhood for Climate Leadership Initiative; held neighborhood cleanup day. **Political:** Held local candidates forum for 2006 elections; coordinated city-wide issues forum.

**Community:** Held neighborhood picnic in Monroe Park; re-established efficient scheduling of McNail-Riley House (subsequently assumed by City staff) and coordinated building repair and new chairs and tables; created Web site directory of neighborhood businesses; successfully worked with Neighborhood Leaders Council to gain NLC support for infill compatibility standards as a high priority for the City; JWN delegation of eight residents participated in "Neighborhood Summit" and worked effectively to have participants identify two of the top city-wide priorities as: earlier neighborhood involvement in land use decisions, and assuring any increase in density in existing neighborhoods maintains the character and stability of the neighborhood.

**Organization, meetings, and member communication:** Boosted member participation to over 400 attendees at eight general meetings, the neighborhood picnic, holiday party, and Neighbors' Night Out; relocated meetings to new facility that could accommodate larger attendance; presented a variety of programs including: JWN goal setting, land use code panel discussion, expanding neighborhood trees, Chambers Revisited and Infill Compatibility Standards projects; evening with Mayor Piercy; neighborhood crime and safety; revised JWN bylaws to encourage more member participation on Executive Board and greater responsiveness of board; launched extensive Web site; implemented e-mail newsletter with almost 200 subscribers; reestablished volunteer delivery system for announcements and newsletters; conducted Web and mail-in member survey.

## Infill Compatibility Standards project holds significant promise

In Fall 2006, a survey of JWN residents' top aspirations and concerns identified "Impacts from incompatible infill" as the top item by a wide margin. At about the same time, the Planning Division initiated the Infill Compatibility Standards (ICS) project in response to City Council's direction and funding. The project is intended to develop new zoning code that will include standards to address the negative impacts of incompatible infill. A rough estimate is that City Council may adopt standards sometime around Fall 2008.

At this early stage in the project, prospects look favorable for an outcome that may finally halt the ongoing damage caused in our neighborhoods by badly-designed, overbuilt, and poorly-sited infill, particularly in the extensive areas of JWN that are zoned R-2.

Terri Harding is the City planner in charge of the project, and she has been meeting with neighborhood association boards and members throughout the city to introduce the project and learn residents' concerns. Terri and JWN members had a lively discussion at our January general meeting, and JWN co-chairs Rene Kane and Paul Conte have had several discussions with Terri about specific issues related to the Jefferson and Westside neighborhoods.

The Planning Commission has set up a three-person subcommittee (Rick Duncan, John Lawless, and Ann Kneeland) to develop a project work plan and public involvement strategy. Initial drafts of a "Challenge Statement", "Goal and Objectives", and "Citizen Involvement Plan" have been posted on the City's Web site.

At our October 10, 2006, the JWN gen-

eral membership overwhelmingly adopted a motion supporting the following three principles for the ICS project:

- There be a clearly-stated goal: The Infill Compatibility Standards program shall define standards and processes that will increase the stability and quality of older residential neighborhoods (as required by Metro Plan Policy A.25) and maintain the character and livability of individual neighborhoods (as required by Growth Management Policy 6).

- All appropriate standards that fulfill the stated goal, including standards that may reduce allowable density, should be considered without any limitation based on the projected outcome of "opportunity siting" or other programs intended to increase density.

- There be a resident-driven process for developing infill compatibility standards and processes.

The Planning Commission subcommittee's initial draft goal falls short of the first principle above because it states that infill standards should only "mitigate" negative impacts and thus leaves unclear whether the ICS goal is to adopt standards that effectively protect the stability, quality, character, and livability of neighborhoods, as by the City's adopted policies clearly state.

In response, the JWN co-chairs and leaders from a number of other neighborhoods are collaborating to develop an alternative goal statement that more clearly follows the Metro Plan and Growth Management Policies referenced above. The JWN co-chairs have also met with Terri and Lisa Gardner, the new Planning Director, to discuss how residents can play a central role in determining the appropriate

*It's Summer in the City!* (well, almost)  
here's what's happening this summer in the JWN...



### Saturday May 19th Neighborhood Clean-up!

Get rid of yard debris/unwanted junk!  
9:00 am to 5:00 pm  
15th Avenue west of Jefferson



### Tuesday June 12th JWN's ANNUAL PICNIC!

Potluck, bar-b-que, games, music  
5:30 pm to 8:00 pm  
Charnel-Mulligan Park  
17th Avenue & Charnelton Street



### Tuesday August 7th National Night Out!

5:30 pm to 8:00 pm  
Monroe Park  
Broadway & Monroe Streets

a nationwide event to reduce neighborhood crime

\*\*\*

For more information about these and other JWN events contact the Chair or visit us on the Web at [jwneugene.org](http://jwneugene.org).

## Lend a hand...

Give a little time and talent and gain a lot in return. Great neighborhoods happen because people who live in them care.

Come join your neighbors and help maintain the Jefferson and Westside neighborhoods as safe, vital places to live.

Some of the volunteer spots that are available include: help with events (picnic, neighborhood clean-up, National Night Out) attorney, publication distribution, urban planner/architect/zoning specialist, Web wizard, fund raiser, outreach activist, business relations developer.

For a description of these and other volunteer openings, please see: [jwneugene.org/volunteer](http://jwneugene.org/volunteer) or contact the Chair (see page 3).

Remember, YOU are the Jefferson Westside Neighbors!



## What a year! Thank you from the Co-chairs

When we became co-chairs last year, we had little idea how much excitement ... and hard work and fun was in store for us. On page 2, we recap some of the activities and accomplishments. We feel good that with the help of a supportive Executive Board and many neighbors who stepped up, the Jefferson and Westside neighborhoods are in a stronger position to face the many challenges that confront our urban neighborhoods.

One of our proudest accomplishments was the enormous progress in addressing decades of misdirected land use policy that has encouraged the scourge of thoughtless infill development. We saved a large area of the Jefferson neighborhood from this threat; protected the Chambers Special Area Zone in Westside from an attack on that area's recently adopted infill standards; and have taken a City-wide leadership role in the effort to create and adopt infill compatibility standards to protect and nurture the health and livability of all Eugene's neighborhoods.

The other area that has taken many hours, but reaped rewarding results, is revitalizing participation of neighborhood residents and businesses in the JWN organization. Meeting attendance is up dramatically, and many residents have volunteered in neighborhood activities and participated in City public processes related to our neighborhood.

We'd like to thank the friends and neighbors who gave their time on the board over the past year – Glenn Smeed, Angela Rooney, Kyle Burns, Erika Seiferling, Garrick Mishaga, Charles Snyder, Eric Gran, and Dale Deason, as well as the many other individuals who helped in so many ways.

We hope everyone in the JWN will join in to help keep our neighborhoods such wonderful places to live, work, and play.

*Paul Conte*      *Rene Kane*

## Tremendous victory for Jefferson neighborhood!

On March 12, the City Council voted unanimously to adopt amendments to the Metro Plan, Jefferson/Far West Refinement Plan, and City Code that (re)designate a large area of the Jefferson neighborhood as "Low Density Residential." The area covered is roughly a triangle bounded by Jefferson Street, W. 18th Ave., and a zig-zag line running from approximately the corner of W. 13th Ave and Lawrence Alley to the corner of W. 18th Ave. and Willamette Alley.

Prior to Council's action, a property owner could have built a multi-story duplex, triplex, or in many cases a four-plex, in back of an existing house and right next to, or across the alley from, other residents in the affected area. The "Low Density Residential" designation will protect residents' homes against this threat of grossly incompatible infill until residents and the JWN work with the City to develop effective infill standards that protect the neighborhood's livability, while allowing limited additional infill that's compatible with the neighborhood character. (See article on ICS project, page 2.)

This is the culmination of a sustained, thirteen-month effort by area residents and the JWN Executive Board. At the September 2006 JWN general meeting, JWN members voted unanimously (34-0) to support these amendments, so this was another big success for the JWN. For full details, see: [jwneugene.org/jeffredes](http://jwneugene.org/jeffredes).

## Eugene Budget determines programs and services

If you picked one City document that has the greatest impact on Eugene citizens, you would probably choose the Annual Budget. How the City Council allocates funds has a tremendous impact on programs and services, including police patrols, support for homeless populations, street repair, parks and recreation, land use planning, and much more. So, if you want to "lobby" for, or against, a particular program or service, now's the time.

The annual budget process kicks off with the City Manager's April 23 presentation of the budget to the Budget Committee. This body of the eight City Councilors plus eight citizen members will then hold meetings on April 25, and May 2, 7, and 15 before taking action on a recommendation for City Council action on June 11. At most of these meetings, time is set aside at the beginning for public comment of two to three minutes per person. You can also submit comments by e-mail or in printed form. For more details on the budget and meeting agendas, visit the City's Web site at: [www.eugene.or.gov/budgetcommittee](http://www.eugene.or.gov/budgetcommittee) or pick up materials at the City Manager's Office at 777 Pearl St.

At the April 10 JWN meeting, we'll present a brief guide to the budget process and effective lobbying for budget changes.

## Viewpoint: Neighborhood group focuses on possible EmX route through JWN

By Ilona Koleszar

Last November, a number of JWN members formed an ad hoc group called Residents for Responsible Rapid Transit (RRRT or 3RT) in response to the City's decision to identify W. 11th Ave. as the City's priority for the next EmX corridor study, and to study the transportation corridor of W. 11th Ave. The City's motivation appears to have arisen largely out of a desire, following the demise of the West Eugene Parkway, to look at a broad spectrum of west Eugene traffic issues. An EmX route from downtown to an as-yet-unidentified terminus in west Eugene is only one element of this larger picture.

Bus rapid transit systems, such as EmX, are designed to provide service with a "light rail" feel in markets that are too small to support the infrastructure costs of a true rail-based system. Bus rapid transit is not designed to replace conventional bus service, which provides broad local coverage with many points of access. Instead, bus rapid transit offers express service between a limited number of points. One possibility for a western EmX termination point would be a new LTD terminal, which could include a Park-and-Ride lot, an origination point for local bus routes serving west Eugene, or even accommodation and amenities for waiting riders. It might also offer riders direct service to downtown

also offer riders direct service to downtown Eugene, downtown Springfield, and the Gateway area.

While an EmX line to west Eugene offers potential advantages, routing EmX through the JWN raises concerns including parking restrictions, tree removal, and reduced driveway access. An EmX route to west Eugene, however, might utilize commercial and industrial streets rather than residential streets.

3RT has examined current LTD bus routes and ridership in West Eugene, reviewed traffic counts on area roads, and analyzed alternatives for new EmX bus service to west Eugene. We think EmX service, if done right, could enhance service to and around west Eugene, while not negatively impacting neighborhood quality. 3RT members are currently exploring a variety of options with LTD and City staff.

The 3RT group will continue to provide JWN residents information about EmX planning, including a presentation tentatively scheduled for the May 8th JWN meeting. You can find more information on the 3RT Web site at: [home.comcast.net/~3RT/](http://home.comcast.net/~3RT/). Or call Ilona Koleszar at 513-7800.

*Opinions expressed are those of the author.*

## JWN Neighbors Tackle Carbon Emissions

Once again, residents of Jefferson and Westside neighborhoods are at the forefront of making the world (and the neighborhood) a better place.

U of O's Climate Leadership Initiative is working with residents in JWN and the Fairmount neighborhood to learn about ways to reduce carbon emissions. Covering everything from low-emission yards to low-carbon eating, monthly CLI classes are offered to potential Climate Masters who, in turn, pledge to donate time to community education and outreach. JWN residents involved in CLI include JWN board members Garrick Mishaga and Erika Seiferling.

Climate Masters will conduct free household assessments for JWN residents, developing a plan to reduce household greenhouse gas emissions. They'll provide resources and energy saving devices for your home that will cut your bills and emissions immediately.

The next CLI events, just in time for spring, are hands-on landscape workshops held at Fairmount and JWN residences. You'll learn about how your yard can be a sink, rather than a source of greenhouse gases. Learn about composting, low input and low impact yard care, tree planting and water conservation.

**Saturday, April 14th, 9am-noon,**  
Residence, 1667 Fairmount Blvd.

**Saturday, April 28th, 9am-noon,**  
Residence, 1480 W. 10th Ave.

Contact the CLI at 346-0786 or [climlead@uoregon.edu](mailto:climlead@uoregon.edu) for more information.

## Thanks to First United Methodist Church for our new meeting space!

Thanks to folks at the First United Methodist Church, Jefferson Westside Neighbors has a new meeting place that meets our need for more room. With growing attendance at neighborhood meetings, we're glad to be able to accommodate more people in such a clean, well-lighted and spacious room.

As a JWN neighbor, the church has welcomed JWN and waived their customary fee of \$200.00 in exchange for any donations received from members to assist in upkeep and utilities cost for the church building. JWN members have been generous as we "passed the hat" at recent meetings.

Thanks to everyone!

## E-mail or printed?

**Choose how you receive JWN news:** Receive your JWN newsletters and announcements via email OR receive printed copies by US mail.

**You choose.** Just let us know which you prefer by e-mailing or calling Rene Kane, JWN co-chair at [rkane@highstream.net](mailto:rkane@highstream.net) or 343-4309.

### Jefferson Westside Neighbors Future Meetings:

JWN General Membership Meeting - Tuesday, April 10  
JWN Executive Board - Monday, April 17

### Jefferson Westside Neighbors Executive Board Co-chairs:

Paul Conte 344-2552 [pconte@picante-soft.com](mailto:pconte@picante-soft.com)  
Rene Kane 343-4309 [rkane@highstream.net](mailto:rkane@highstream.net)

**Treasurer:** vacant

**Secretary:** Charles Snyder

**At-large Board Members:**

Kyle Burns, Erika Seiferling, Glenn Smeed, Angela Rooney, Garrick Mishaga Jr.

**Newsletter Editor:** Rene Kane

JWN meeting minutes, financial information, bylaws, and additional information are available on the JWN Web site at [jwneugene.org](http://jwneugene.org) or by contacting either co-chair.

## JWN newsletter policy

This is the official newsletter of the Jefferson Westside Neighbors. The newsletter Editor, in conjunction with the JWN Board, is responsible for all content, subject to City approval in City-funded issues. (This issue was printed with City of Eugene funds.) Articles with "Viewpoint" in the title reflect the opinion of the authors and not necessarily that of the JWN Board, the neighborhood association, or City staff or public officials. We welcome submissions of all types, including articles and letters. All submissions are subject to editing or shortening for publication. All submissions must be accompanied by the author's name, home address, and phone number or e-mail address. (We do not publish authors' addresses, phone numbers, or e-mail addresses unless requested by the author.) To submit an article or letter, or for more information, please contact Rene Kane, JWN newsletter editor at [rkane@highstream.net](mailto:rkane@highstream.net), or 343-4309.

## VOTE for next year's neighborhood leaders! JWN Executive Board Elections – April 10

Election of the JWN Executive Board may not rank with presidential and congressional races, but having hard-working board members who can effectively represent your neighborhood interests can make a big difference in your day-to-day life. Through Eugene's recognized neighborhood association program, the JWN board can influence important City policy and budget decisions that affect public safety, infill development, traffic impacts, parks and recreation, and many other issues.

At the April 10 JWN meeting (see page 1 for details), members will vote to elect a Chair, Vice-chair, and five board members-at-large, all to serve one year terms. (Note that the JWN membership amended the association bylaws in February to change the Executive Board

composition and terms.) You must be present at the meeting to cast your vote. A candidate for any board position must be a JWN member, and either be present at the general meeting when the election is held and indicate his or her willingness to serve in the position, or have attended and signed in at one of the previous six JWN general meetings and have submitted a written statement of his or her willingness to serve in the position to the Executive Board prior to the election.

According to the JWN bylaws, the nominating committee designated by the Executive Board is charged with presenting a slate of candidates. Nominations from the floor are also allowed at the April 10 meeting. This year's

nominating committee comprises: Matt Purvis, Barbara Aten, and Paul Conte. As of the publication deadline, the committee had confirmed candidates for the following positions: Chair – Rene Kane; Vice-Chair – Iлона Koleszar; Board members-at-large – Paul Conte and Charles Snyder.

The nominating committee will publish additional candidates on the JWN Web site as soon as they're confirmed and will also include the entire list of candidates in the *JWN e-News* that will be e-mailed prior to the election. If you'd like to sign-up for the *JWN e-News* e-mail newsletter or request a printed copy of the final list of candidates, please contact either co-chair (see page 3).

### Preventing Residential Burglary in the JWN

By Rene Kane, Co-Chair

A neighbor learned about crime the hard way. After a thief broke into her house, he (or she) took her purse, keys... and her car. Luckily, she wasn't home and a few days later, both her purse (minus wallet) and car (with damage to the body and tires) were recovered. Her lesson? Using the dead-bolt on her back door would have been a deterrent; leaving her purse in plain sight made it an easy target.

Our lesson came a few days later when we invited Officer Tod Schneider to conduct a home security inspection of our house. We walked through the interior as he pointed out where our house was most vulnerable to break-in and, most importantly, how we could make our home less inviting to thieves. Windows and doors offer the easiest access for criminals. Open doors and windows are the most frequent means of access, so remember to lock them. If you must open your windows a crack for ventilation, use locks or devices that keep them from opening any further. Advertising your "cool stuff" via open curtains, open garage doors, or in your car is also an invitation to thieves.

Outside, Officer Schneider pointed out the house numbers should be more visible so the house would be easy to locate in an emergency. Our fence provides some security, but since it's solid it prevents neighbors from being able to see someone lurking in the yard, what Officer Schneider termed "natural surveillance". Our biggest vulnerability is a flimsy 1910-era back door – a common entry point for thieves since back doors are usually secluded from view. We promptly bought a new door with a deadbolt lock.

Motion response security lighting is a good mechanism for alerting you (and your neighbors) to intruders. Officer Schneider recommended a system with two infrared beam lights to prevent small animals such as cats or raccoons from setting off the lights. We opted for low-tech (and low-cost) upgrades to our home security for now. We'll be investing in alarms and reinforcing our windows and doors, too. Oh, and we'll make it a point to meet every new neighbor, for security and because it's nice to know that when you need them, they're just across the street.

What can you do about crime in your neighborhood? Learn all you can about prevention and get to know your neighbors. If you want more information about how to protect yourself from residential burglary, how to organize a neighborhood watch, or other crime prevention tips, contact Officer Tod Schneider, Crime Prevention Specialist, at 682-8186. For information on crime statistics in your neighborhood, check the city of Eugene web site at <http://www.eugene-or.gov/portal>, Home > Police > Crime Statistics. The table to the right lists JWN crime statistics for January 2007.

Category	Count
Robbery	1
Simple Assault	3
Sex Offense	1
Burglary	10
Theft	27
Motor Vehicle Theft	6
Vandalism	5
Weapons Offense	2
Drug Abuse	17
Family Offense	1
Liquor Violation	5
Disorderly Conduct	3
All Other Offenses	9

Reported Crimes within Jefferson Westside from 1/1/2007 and 1/31/2007



# Neighborhood News

The Official Newsletter of Jefferson Westside Neighbors

**Open NOW for timely news about what's happening in the JWN! Learn about important issues that affect you and where you live! Want to know about summer events, planning and land use, crime prevention, reducing your carbon emissions, infill standards? It's all HERE...**



Jefferson Westside Neighbors  
c/o: Neighborhood Services  
99 West 10th Avenue  
Eugene OR 97401

PRESORTED STANDARD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
EUGENE, OR 97401  
PERMIT NO. 377