

Jefferson Westside Neighbors WINTER NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2018

REFLECTIONS FROM THE CHAIR

By Tom Happy, JWN Board Chair

How 'bout that park, huh? The newly renovated Charnel Mulligan Park opened in April, and the first 8 months have been great. The number of park users each day has surpassed expectations by a significant margin, and the behavioral problems that lead to the renovation seem to be nearly non-existent.

I would like to thank Jamie Passaro, John Mitchell, Shane McCloskey, Liisa Korpela, Michael Warren, and Rachael Latimer, members of the original study group whose work led to the collaboration with Parks and Open Space to improve the park. I also thank Berry Broadbent, Eva Happy, Nils Stark and Jeff Lake, members of Friends of Charnel Mulligan Park, for their current efforts to ensure that the park functions as well as possible. And a special thanks to the crew at The Cornucopia, and

our friends at New Hope Church, for their continued support in making the park a fun, clean, and safe place to gather.

In the spirit of the efforts highlighted above, I urge all neighbors to consider giving back to your neighborhood by volunteering in some fashion. The possibilities are nearly endless. If you have an idea for a project, notice a problem that you want to help solve, or would like to plug into one of the various JWN initiatives already underway, please do so. A strong neighborhood association is of benefit to all of us, and is especially important in the current political climate, as there are forces at work nationally, regionally and locally to de-legitimize neighborhood associations. Let's work together to keep our neighborhood strong and healthy, and leave a legacy we can all be proud of.

VOLUNTEERING: HAVING TIME VS. MAKING TIME

By Ted M. Coopman, JWN Board Member-at-Large

Working in Monroe Park I get to meet all sorts of people and they often thank me for volunteering. However, when I ask about joining me in service to the neighborhood, the most common excuse is "I don't have the time." Many assume I am out doing volunteer work because I am retired (I wish!). Actually, I have two jobs and a small business! Needless to say, I do not really have the time either. The vast majority of neighborhood volunteers do not have the time to serve, they make the time, because we know it's important.

improving neighborhoods always comes down to either time or money. As we know, Eugene has limited resources and neighborhoods compete for services and investment. We need to remember that other areas of Eugene share our challenges and have their own needs and desires. The city needs to maximize its staff time and tax dollars and volunteers act as a multiplier of their resources. So, volunteers attract attention and investment and as well as provide a way to stretch existing dollars to meet more community needs. The bonus is it is a satisfying way to meet your neighbors and build community.

Community does not just happen, it takes active engagement. If everyone reading this letter volunteered an hour a week (four hours a month), or even just ONE hour a month, it would make a huge difference. You

could make a difference by making the time to build the community you want to live in. No one else is going to do it. American civil society was largely created and maintained with millions of hours of volunteer labor. Pick something that interests you or you're concerned about, meet your neighbors, gain a sense of satisfaction, create community, and join us (we need the help!) in building a better Eugene. The satisfaction and results are very real!

JWN Volunteer Opportunities

Join a park group:

- Friends of Monroe Park
- Friends of Charnel Mulligan Park
- Friends of Lincoln School Park

Get involved in a neighborhood project:

- Jefferson Park Dog Off Leash Area
- Amazon Creek Clean-up
- Street Safety Matching Grant

Join a JWN Issue Team:

- Disaster Preparedness
- JWN Homelessness Solutions
- Land Use

Email us for details:

jwneugene@gmail.com

Or visit:

jwneugene.org

JWN BOARD ELECTIONS: ANNOUNCING THE FORMATION OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The annual JWN executive board elections will be held during the business portion of the April 10th, 2018 General Meeting. The board consists of seven members and terms are for one full year. At this time at least one of the current board members has indicated this will be their last year of service - but there may be more than one position open.

If you'd like to join the board please don't be afraid to throw your hat into the ring as some board members may change their minds. Any member of our neighborhood association may join the board (to be a member you must live or own property, or run a business, within the JWN boundaries). Don't be afraid if you have no

previous board experience; this board is a friendly group and will help you learn the ropes as best they can!

Furthermore, in accordance with the JWN bylaws, the board will be designating a nominating committee at least one month in advance of the election. The nominating committee will consist of one executive board member and two members of the association who are not board members. The committee will publish a slate of nominees for office prior to the election. If you'd like to be a member of the nominating committee please contact the JWN Chair:

jwnchair@yahoo.com

STREET SAFETY NEIGHBORHOOD MATCHING GRANT VOLUNTEER UPDATE

By Dave Hurst, JWN Board Member-at-Large

Special thanks to neighbors Dave Tobin and Ben Callaway (see Volunteer Spotlight article elsewhere in this newsletter), who volunteered to count automobile traffic at the intersection of Jefferson St. and 11th Ave. for more than 2 hours on a sunny Thursday evening this past October. There had been a pedestrian injury at that intersection in 2015 and the City needs to study traffic there to determine if the intersection needs improvements for pedestrian safety.

The JWN's Neighborhood Matching Grant (NMG) project for this year is "Street Safety" and helping with this traffic study is a great opportunity. This work can't be done by machines as the City needs to know details such as how many cars are turning, continuing straight, or bypassing

the intersection entirely by turning onto 10th Ave. before the light. These volunteer hours are matched by the City's Neighborhood Matching Grant program at a rate of \$23/hour, which is being used by the JWN to provide bicycle helmets to neighbors at no charge.

There will be at least one more traffic count at this intersection before this NMG project ends on May 1st. If counting cars isn't your thing, another option for volunteering is to count pedestrian crossings at intersections throughout the neighborhood to see if those intersections warrant safety improvements. If you would like to volunteer for the traffic or pedestrian counts, please contact the NMG volunteer coordinator at:

hurst.d@gmail.com

PARKS AND RECREATION: SPECIAL DISTRICT

By Dale Weigandt, Superintendent, River Road Park District

There is another option to the ongoing funding issue for Eugene's parks. The Santa Clara Community Organization (SCCO), along with several other neighbor association boards including the JWN, proposes that the City of Eugene consider an Economic Feasibility Study for a Parks and Recreation Special District that would encompass the entire city. A special district would collect taxes dedicated to parks and recreation only. Highly successful special districts operate in Springfield (Willamalane), Bend and Tualatin. There are at least ten more park and recreation special districts in Oregon. Special districts are not just for small-to-mid-sized cities.

Seattle converted their park system to a special district in August of 2014.

An Economic Feasibility Study is required by the state in order to create a special district. The study will provide the information needed to make a decision regarding the creation of a special district with stable funding for parks and recreation. With the Eugene City Council and Budget Committee currently exploring park system funding ideas, an Economic Feasibility Study at this time makes sense. If you like this idea, contact your city councilor and urge them to voice their support.

2017-2018 JWN EXECUTIVE BOARD

TOM HAPPY
chair
jwnchair@yahoo.com

TAMARA CRAFTS
vice-chair

at large members
TED COOPMAN
SUE CUMMINGS
DAVE HURST
EVA HAPPY
ERIC DIL

newsletter editor
STEPHEN HEIDER

JWN meeting minutes, financial information, bylaws, and additional information are available on the JWN website at jwneugene.org or by contacting the chair.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JAN. 9 6:45 - 9:00 pm
JWN General Meeting
First United Methodist Church
1376 Olive Street

JAN. 16 6:45 - 8:45 pm
JWN Executive Board Meeting
McNail-Riley House
NW corner of 13th & Jefferson

JAN. 23 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Neighborhood Leaders Council
(open to the public)
Sloat Room, The Atrium
10th & Olive

FEB. 13 6:45 - 9:00 pm
JWN General Meeting
First United Methodist Church
1376 Olive Street

FEB. 20 6:45 - 8:45 pm
JWN Executive Board Meeting
McNail-Riley House
NW corner of 13th & Jefferson

FEB. 27 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Neighborhood Leaders Council
(open to the public)
Sloat Room, The Atrium
10th & Olive

MAR. 13 6:45 - 9:00 pm
JWN General Meeting
First United Methodist Church
1376 Olive Street

MAR. 20 6:45 - 8:45 pm
JWN Executive Board Meeting
McNail-Riley House
NW corner of 13th & Jefferson

MAR 27 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Neighborhood Leaders Council
(open to the public)
Sloat Room, The Atrium
10th & Olive

APR 10 6:45 - 9:00 pm
JWN General Meeting
****ANNUAL ELECTION****
First United Methodist Church
1376 Olive Street

LEARN HOW TO BE A MASTER OF DISASTER: #JWNPREPARED

By Ted M. Coopman, JWN Board Member-at-Large

Preparing for emergencies can seem overwhelming. The effort and expense in the present are actual, while the consequences of an emergency are in the future are conceptual. However, much like home or auto insurance, as my mom would say, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." There are many simple and inexpensive ways to prepare for emergencies and the JWN has a new webpage and program to get you started.

Once again, hurricanes in the south and wild fire in the west, including weeks of choking smoke in Eugene, have brought home the reality that disasters can strike anytime. Let's also not forget about our ice storms last winter and the ever-present threat of a large earthquake on the Cascadia Subduction Zone. The urban neighborhoods that burned in Santa Rosa were similar to our own and considered "fire safe." The flames jumped an eight-lane concrete freeway! But don't freak out! It just leads to denial. Instead, join your neighbors in taking some basic steps to mitigate the impacts of future emergencies. Remember, any problem is a series of smaller problems, so here are four FREE and easy steps you can take right now to get you on your way to be a Master of Disaster (preparedness).

First, for up-to-date information and resources, visit the JWN Emergency Preparedness webpage:

jwneugene.org/initiatives/emergency-preparedness/

FIRECHAT: COMMUNICATION FOR EMERGENCIES

By Stephanie J. Coopman, JWN Resident

FireChat is a social networking app designed to work even when the internet and cell service do not. The app creates a network among FireChat's users, linking together users' smartphones like a daisy chain. When you send message, it will jump from FireChat user to FireChat user until it reaches the recipient.

When the app is open, you can see a list of other FireChat users who are close by. The app is especially useful for community members and neighborhood groups like the Jefferson Westside Neighbors to connect with each other in an emergency.

However, you don't need an emergency to use FireChat. The app also works with WiFi and cell service. FireChat has public chatrooms as well as private messaging. It's easy to create your own public conversation or private group. You sign up with

Help us get you on the path to preparedness and stay tuned for future JWN Emergency Preparedness focused meetings and workshops.

Second, to identify neighbors who may need help or who have useful resources like generators or medical training, come to our January General Meeting and learn how to map your immediate neighborhood:

www.preporegon.org/MYN_overview

In Santa Rosa, lives were lost because people did not know they had elderly neighbors who needed help to evacuate.

Third, download the FireChat app to your phone (see related article) and get your friends and family to do the same. That way, you can communicate even if the power and cell towers are down.

Finally, make a "bug out" list of important items and precious irreplaceable possessions. In Santa Rosa, people has just one or two minutes to grab and go. 2 am is not the time to start to think about what to take. Make a list with locations, find the items, and stick it on the fridge. Just going through this process and thinking about it puts you a step ahead.

Don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good. Anything you do is better than nothing, so do something today.

"NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE FROM, WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE OUR NEIGHBOR."

For those wishing to spell it out, the image below depicts a stance that members of the board find conducive to the spirit of neighborly virtue:

No importa de dónde eres, estamos contentos que seas nuestro vecino.

No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor.

لا يهم اين ولدتكم، و لكننا سعداء انكم جيراننا.

For those wishing to obtain color versions of this image for their own printing, or to purchase them as pre-made signs, the following website has the open-source (copyright-free) version we've used here:

welcomeyourneighbors.org

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

This is the official newsletter of the Jefferson Westside Neighbors (JWN) neighborhood association in Eugene, Oregon. Funds for the printing & mailing of newsletters are provided by the City of Eugene. Newsletters are produced by neighborhood volunteers and are free to residents & businesses of the neighborhood. Space is available for letters to the editor or articles from neighbors and will be published as space permits. The information provided and the views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent the position of the City of Eugene or the Jefferson Westside Neighbors.



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#jeffwesthood
#jeffwestyall

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SIDEWALK SAFETY

By Dave Hurst, JWN Board Member-at-Large

Almost all the homes in Jefferson Westside have sidewalks. Safe sidewalks benefit pedestrians, people in wheelchairs, joggers, and others who use sidewalks to travel around town. Safe, clean and hazard-free sidewalks promote mobility and livability for our neighbors and they can also improve a property's value. Anyone who has spent time in a neighborhood without sidewalks knows how fortunate we are, but with great sidewalks come great responsibilities!

This is a friendly reminder that citizens need to properly maintain the sidewalks on or adjoining their property. Property owners can be held liable if someone is injured on the sidewalk, as explained in Eugene City Code (section EC 7.375). City officials also interpret the City Code to mean that sidewalks need to be kept clear of ice, snow, leaves and other things that could cause someone to fall. This is very important to keep in mind at this time of year as autumn leaves are often left in place on sidewalks and turn into a slippery sludge, only to be coated by a layer of ice when winter moves in. Combine these seasonal issues with problems such as sunken, cracked, raised, or missing sections and you have the potential for a dangerous situation for you and your neighbors.

What you can do:

- Address problems as soon as possible to minimize the amount of repair required.
- Do not park cars or other heavy equipment on your sidewalk.
- If you observe hazardous sidewalks, report them by calling 541-682-4800 or submit an on-line Sidewalk Inspection Request:

www.eugene-or.gov/1776/Maintenance-Service-Request

- Remove paint, tar, or other materials if they get on the sidewalk. Please do not hose paint or petroleum products into the storm drainage system.
- Sweep sidewalks to keep them free of leaves, snow, ice, or debris. Be sure to properly dispose of debris and not sweep them into the gutter or street.
- Trim tree branches, shrubs, and other vegetation so they do not obstruct the sidewalk.
- Watch for early signs of leaking water lines, tree roots, and other damages.
- Offer your assistance to neighbors who are unable to maintain their sidewalks.

Let's do our best to keep this valuable asset in safe condition for all to use.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

By Stephanie J. Coopman, JWN Resident

Meet your neighbor Ben Callaway, recent transplant from Portland, current Global Education Oregon (study abroad) coordinator at the University of Oregon, and volunteer extraordinaire. He read about volunteer opportunities in the JWN newsletter and soon found himself serving food at the buffet for the Charnel Mulligan Park grand reopening in June and more recently counting cars for the JWN Neighborhood Safety Study. For Ben, volunteering allows him to give back to his community, learn about local services, and meet new people.

Ben and his spouse didn't move to the Jefferson Westside area by accident. When they were looking for a place to live in Eugene, they chose our neighborhood for its walkability, proximity to downtown, and overall charm. They found a home close to parks, stores, restaurants, and the Fern Ridge Path along Amazon Creek.

In encouraging others to volunteer, Ben notes that volunteering gives you a sense of what's going on in your

neighborhood. You learn about city resources such as the matching grant program that supports JWN's bicycle helmet giveaway. You meet others in the neighborhood. And you find out what's working well in your neighborhood and what challenges the neighborhood faces.

A native of Norwich, Vermont, Ben always has found time to volunteer. He served as a youth mentor, volunteered an animal shelter, and worked with high school students. He advises prospective volunteers to consider starting with one-time only events that fit with their interests. Make volunteering a priority, but avoid over committing yourself. Get a sense of what you can do. Find volunteer work that parallels your passions. For instance, Ben chose the traffic counting study because he enjoys walking the neighborhood and wants to make it more pedestrian friendly. And if a volunteer activity doesn't work out, search for another one—you'll find one that brings out the inner volunteer in you.

IN MEMORIAM

By Ilona Koleszar, JWN Resident and Former Board Member

In October 2016 our neighborhood lost two remarkable people, Jozef Siekiel-Zdzienicki and Pauline Hutson. They were in their early 70s.

Jozef was born shortly after WWII in an English refugee camp, where his family was sent from Poland. They emigrated to the United States and settled in California. Similarly, Pauline's family migrated shortly after WWII, from England to Kenya. She returned to England as a young adult and ran with famed musicians living the mod 1960s London lifestyle. Meanwhile, Jozef refused to register for the draft, protested the war, and graduated from Berkeley. He focused his energies on the natural environment, and became a carpenter and gardener.

Jozef and Pauline met by chance in northern California, about 25 years ago. There were difficult times but they found purpose and success in community activism, literally stopping a big-box store from building in their town.

The couple left California for

Eugene and made their home in the JWN. They joined LandWatch Lane County; Jozef was appointed to serve as a Lane County Planning Commissioner.

Jozef and Pauline were truly committed neighbors. Jozef donated countless hours to neighborhood projects, recording street trees for our tree inventory, and collecting character data for the special area zone ordinance. Pauline delivered neighborhood newsletters door-to-door for years until she could no longer physically do so.

They also co-founded a group of neighbors that kept LTD from building EmX through the JWN, saving dozens of mature trees on W 11th. If you ever enjoy walking, biking or driving westbound on 11th from downtown – under the tree canopy's summer shade, or bright spring buds, or colorful fall leaves – thank Pauline and Jozef.

Jozef Siekiel-Zdzienicki and Pauline Hutson will be warmly remembered by their JWN friends and neighbors.

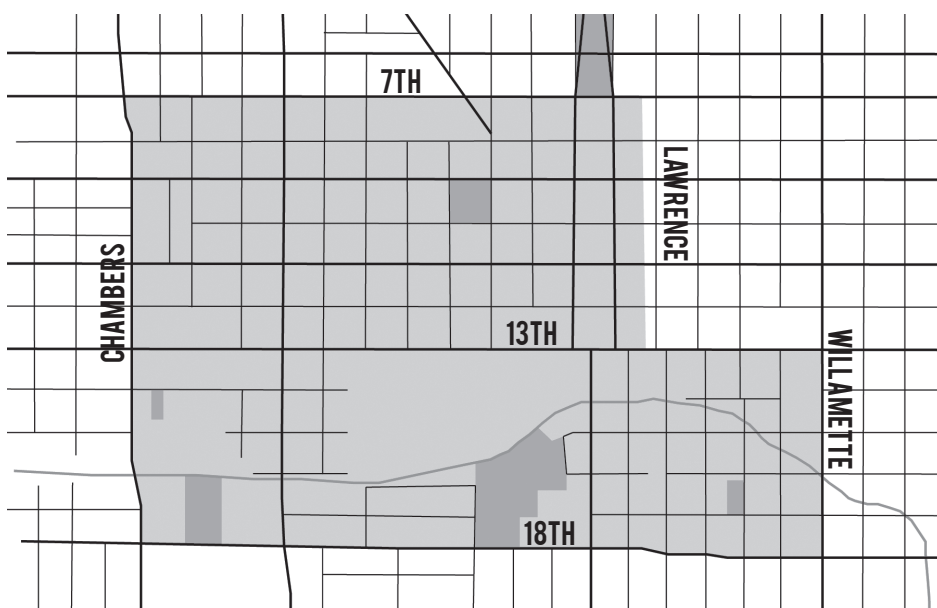
FINDING THE JWN STREET TREE INVENTORY

It's been nearly 5 years since it was completed. To see the results of the work by Jozef and many others, you can download a copy of the JWN Tree Inventory from the City of Eugene website:

<https://www.eugene-or.gov/DocumentCenter/View/16338>



JEFFERSON WESTSIDE NEIGHBORS: THE SCOPE OF INFLUENCE



Jefferson Westside Neighbors (JWN) is the City-chartered neighborhood for the area roughly between West 7th and 18th Avenues and between Chambers Street and Lawrence/Willamette Streets.

HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY?

We welcome all JWN residents and business owners to contribute content to this newsletter. Please submit your article, letter to the editor, or photos to JWN at editor@jwneugene.org.



KEEP INFORMED WITH MONTHLY E-NEWS

By Ted M. Coopman, JWN Board Member

These paper newsletters are great and go out to every household in the JWN, but they only happen twice a year, have limited space for content, and are costly and time-intensive to create, print, and distribute. Often, news and information are timely and neighbors need to act fast to provide input on important issues such as land use and development, proposed city initiatives and ordinances that impact the neighborhood, and opportunities and events. The best and easiest way to keep informed is via our many digital media outlets available on your computer or phone. It's easy!

1. The JWN Monthly eNews (ad free and we do not collect, sell, or share your data) is published the beginning of every month, comes directly to your email inbox, and is available on at:

jwneugene.org/news/newsletter/

2. Sign-up on the website or email jwneugene@gmail.com

3. The Jefferson Westside Neighbors website (jwneugene.org) is regularly updated and contains a wealth of information on our parks, special projects and initiatives, and the latest news and events. Also, see what JWN business we follow:

jwneugene.org/business-directory/

4. The JWN Facebook Page is a great way to keep engaged if you spend time on social media. Enjoy our neighborhood news and photos as well as information on upcoming events. Friend us! facebook.com/JWNEugene

5. Our JWN Instagram [[jeffersonwestside_neighbors](https://instagram.com/jeffersonwestside_neighbors)] is a fun way to enjoy the neighborhood and participate by using our hashtags

#jeffwesthood
#jeffwestyall

CITY AUDITOR MEASURE ON MAY BALLOT

By Former City Councilors George Brown and Bonny Bettman McCornack, and Neighborhood Leader David Monk

“City Accountability,” our all volunteer petition committee, has qualified this measure; “Amends Charter: establishes office, duties of independent elected City Auditor”, for the May 2018 ballot. We submitted over 10,000 valid signatures, almost 2,000 beyond what was required. This means our community can vote YES on 20-283 to establish an Office of an independent elected City Auditor to achieve transparency and accountability in our city government.

This independent elected City Auditor will:

- provide unbiased and objective verification of public spending
- improve efficiency of city services
- save money
- prevent fraud, waste
- restore trust in city government

This non-partisan, independent, elected Auditor will have authority to audit all city departments, operations, services and expenditures. The Audi-

tor will be accountable to the voters and all audit reports, and evaluations of the Auditor will be public. The office will be independent of the council and manager and therefore immune from political pressure or retaliation - in the event an audit casts the city in an unflattering light.

Thousands of other cities and counties have independent Auditors. Elected, independent Auditors that are free to ‘follow the money’ have a positive economic impact well beyond the audit office’s annual budget. Every dollar spent on Auditor’s services can save 4 to 5 dollars for taxpayers, enhance service delivery, and can justifiably restore credibility and trust in city government.

For more info or to help:

<http://cityaccountabilty.org>

electedauditor@gmail.com

JANUARY GENERAL MEETING PREVIEW

Here are some topics for upcoming general meetings at the First United Methodist Church

January 9th

6:45-8:00pm *Free pizza*, Dessert potluck, and family-friendly games, along with a self-defense workshop as part of our street safety initiative.

8:00-9:00pm Map Your Neighborhood workshop

February/March

City Auditor Ballot Measure presentation by Bonny Bettman; “A Family For Every Child” agency representatives will share about their adoption and foster programs; street safety initiative update by Tamara Crafts

Disaster preparedness and Lincoln School Park renovation workshop?

LINCOLN SCHOOL PARK RENOVATION BEGINS!

By Ted M. Coopman, JWN Board Member

The first public meeting for Lincoln School Park Renovation Project (LSPRP) on November 7 was well attended by 17 interested neighbors. Pam Symond from Eugene Parks and Open Space facilitated. Ward One Councilor Emily Semple, Chris O’Neil, Coordinator for Friends of Lincoln School Park, and myself representing the JWN Board and Friends of Monroe Park were present. After an overview of the park’s history we had a lively discussion of neighbor’s needs and desires for this important open space. While no decisions were made, there was a great dialog on the possibilities, such as expanding the adjacent community garden into an underutilized back corner of the park, improving the existing basketball court to allow for other uses, a sand feature and new playground equipment, and irrigated turf and landscaping. Neighbors brought up concerns about security, keeping the trees, protect the garden from basketballs and better through-bike access between 13th and 12th.

An initial online survey (publicized via our eNews, website, and Facebook page) closed December 10 (watch our eNews, website, and Facebook page for results). There will be several opportunities for public input, but ultimately park staff will make the final decisions based on applicable local, state, and federal code, regulations, and law, as well as maintenance demands and funding. The budget is \$500,000 and the city projects construction to begin in summer 2019.

More opportunities to get involved in this once-in-a-generation opportunity include focus groups at JWN General meeting in February or March and an April or May Parks workshop. If you are interested, contact us and join the Friends of Lincoln School Park. Keep up-to-date at the JWN Friends of Lincoln School Park page: jwneugene.org/initiatives/lincoln-school-park/

Or the city’s Lincoln School Park Renovation page: www.eugene-or.gov/3744/Lincoln-School-Park-Renovation

MISSING SOMETHING?

Past newsletters are available online at the JWN website: www.jwneugene.org.

