

Jefferson Westside Neighbors SUMMER NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2017

JWN PARKS: OUR NEIGHBORHOOD COMMONS

By Ted M. Coopman, JWN Board Member-at-Large and Friends of Monroe Park Facilitator

Renewed Investment in Our Parks

The developed parks in the JWN - Monroe, Charnel-Mulligan, Lincoln School, and Wayside - are our collective front yards and where the neighborhood (for good or ill) interacts with the rest of Eugene. At the recent JWN Picnic and Charnel-Mulligan Park Grand Opening half of the people I talked to did not live in the JWN but frequented it and other local parks. These urban neighborhood parks are important cultural resources and need constant attention to keep them clean, green, and safe. Moreover, problem parks degrade the quality of neighborhoods livability and lower property values.

Virtuous vs. Vicious Cycles

The health of neighborhood open space reflects and is reflected in the surrounding neighborhood. Parks are magnets for positive and negative behaviors that tend to build on and amplify similar behaviors. Clean parks, in good repair, and free of graffiti are more attractive to people, particularly families with children. Positive users and activities attract others and make the space inhospitable for nefarious activities. Conversely, trash filled and neglected parks push out positive users and cede the space to problematic users and illegal activities. Word gets out and the park becomes a magnet for illegal activity. In turn, these problem uses spill out into the surrounding neighborhood. Both Monroe and Charnel-Mulligan have seen dark days, but both parks are now on the upswing but it will take concerted and sustained action to keep them clean, green, and safe.

Keeping Public Space Public

Visitors and neighbors, homed and homeless, are all entitled to use public space. But a park is a shared space for recreation and relaxation, it is not a campsite, workshop, storage area, garbage dump, ashtray, bar, or drug den. These activities are exclusionary and privatize public space. Litter and graffiti claim space for certain users and activities. While we certainly should be compassionate for individual's life struggles and inclusive of all neighbors and visitors, parks simply cannot handle certain activities and remain usable and attractive. The condition and uses of parks signals what is acceptable and appropriate. Calling for Parks or police support to address problem activities makes a park unattractive to problematic users who seek to claim it. By keeping parks clean and graffiti free together with the regular presence of volunteers, park maintenance staff and Ambassadors, and police secure these spaces for public use. However, parks can only remain assets to neighborhoods with sustained neighbor involvement.

Your Neighbors at Work

Your neighbors have donated hundreds of hours of volunteer time to JWN parks. Neighbors helped guide the Charnel-Mulligan development, apply for grants, one of which transformed tiny Wayside

park into an urban oasis, put down multiple truckloads of mulch in Monroe Park, secured an extra trash can, got the yellow curbs repainted, and pick-up trash and cover graffiti every day. Every year we organize an Amazon Creek clean up.

What You Can Do

We are lucky that the JWN has the support of the city and police who realize parks can be sources of stability or instability downtown and that parks in the urban core have specific and unique challenges. The JWN has established or reactivated groups for all developed JWN parks that you can join. Active groups demonstrate community support and multiply the city's scarce resources. In this way park group help draw attention and resources to our open spaces.

Here is what you can do right now

If you want to decrease crime and blight and improve livability in the JWN, join a park group. Find the park groups under "initiatives" on the jwneugene.org website or contact us:

jwneugene@gmail.com

Pick-up litter! Reclaim that public space! And always pick up after your dog.

Report problems such as trash, vandalism, or damage to Park Watch: www.eugene-or.gov/2427/Park-Watch

Enter the EPD police non-emergency number into your phone 541.682.5111. When you here the recording hit 1-1-1 to get directly to the next available dispatcher. If you are wondering if you should call, then you should call. Report camping, drug use, drug dealing, alcohol use, public intoxication, camping, or other non-emergency illegal activity. Calls create data and data drives enforcement resources. It is everyone's business.

You can also call the police non-emergency number to reach CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets) if you find a "sharp" (hypodermic needle) - never touch it and do not put in the trash. If you find someone in mental distress or incapacitated you can call CAHOOTS for help.

Finally, visit our parks! The more use the better! Parks filled with children in play areas, adults shooting hoops or play Frisbee, happy dogs, and picnics are happy, healthy, and safe parks.



FALL SEED AND HARVEST EXCHANGE

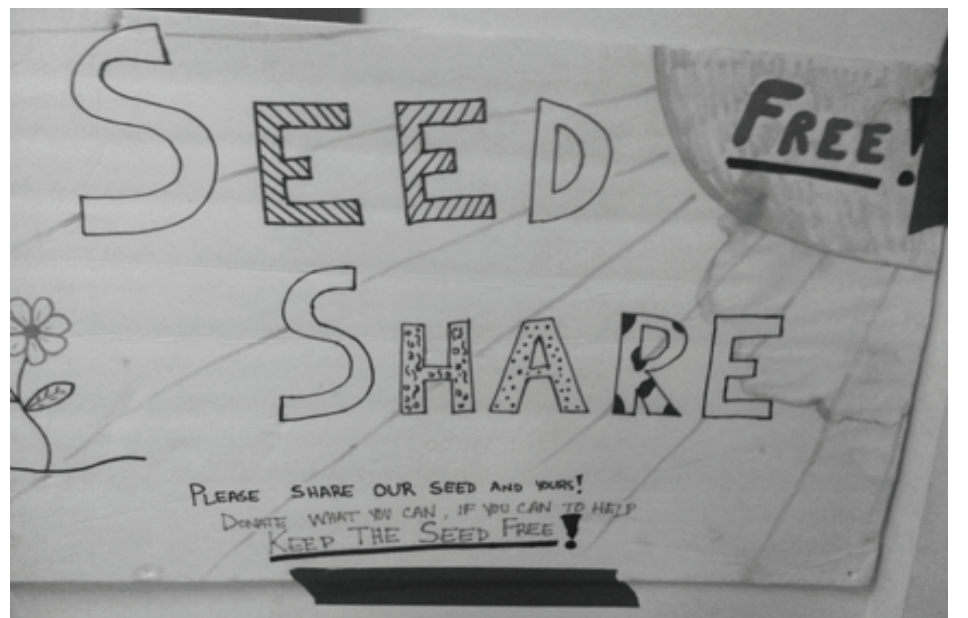
By Tamara Crafts, JWN Board Vice Chair

This fall some neighbors in JWN will host a fall harvest and seed exchange to help neighbors share in the bounty of their garden harvests. We hosted a plant and seed exchange in the spring where neighbors shared plants that needed to be divided and seeds from last year ready to plant. This fall you can bring your seeds collected from the garden and garden good-

ies (fresh fruits, veggies, canned goods, dried herbs etc.) To share with neighbors. Any food left over will be donated to food for lane county. The exchange will be at the McNail-Riley House, 601 W 13th Ave. (Corner of 13th & Jefferson) on October 8th from 12-2pm. The JWN Facebook page and website will have details - please check these sites before the event to get updates (page info in this newsletter on page 2).



The Seed Share table this spring was bountiful!



2017-2018 JWN EXECUTIVE BOARD

TOM HAPPY
chair
jwnchair@yahoo.com

TAMARA CRAFTS
vice-chair

at large members
TED COOPMAN
SUE CUMMINGS
DAVE HURST

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

AUG. 15 6:45 - 8:45 pm

JWN Executive Board Meeting
McNail-Riley House
NW corner of 13th & Jefferson

AUG. 19 ~9:00 - 11:00 pm

The BFG Movie Night
Charnel Mulligan Park
17th & Charnelton
See back page article for details!

AUG. 22 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Neighborhood Leaders Council
(open to the public)
Sloat Room, The Atrium
10th & Olive

SEPT. 12 6:45 - 9:00 pm

JWN General Meeting
First United Methodist Church
1376 Olive Street

SEPT. 19 6:45 - 8:45 pm

JWN Executive Board Meeting
McNail-Riley House
NW corner of 13th & Jefferson

SEPT. 26 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Neighborhood Leaders Council
(open to the public)
Sloat Room, The Atrium
10th & Olive

OCT. 10 6:45 - 9:00 pm

JWN General Meeting
First United Methodist Church
1376 Olive Street

OCT. 17 6:45 - 8:45 pm

JWN Executive Board Meeting
McNail-Riley House
NW corner of 13th & Jefferson

OCT 24 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Neighborhood Leaders Council
(open to the public)
Sloat Room, The Atrium
10th & Olive

NOV 14 6:45 - 9:00 pm

JWN General Meeting
First United Methodist Church
1376 Olive Street

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF A NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP?

By Ted M. Coopman, JWN Board Member-at-Large and Friends of Monroe Park Facilitator

Eugene has twenty-three (23) recognized neighborhood associations. Neighborhood involvement gives you an opportunity to have a voice in decisions that affect the livability of your neighborhood. Your neighborhood association is a great way to partner with other neighbors, the City and other organizations to develop solutions to shared problems. Being part of a neighborhood association connects you to people who share your vision of a healthy, vibrant and safe community.
-City of Eugene Website

Our Civic Inheritance
Oregon is unique as the role of neighborhood associations is “baked” right into the political and social organization of each city. Neighborhood associations receive a modest amount of funding and serve some basic functions for the city. For example, neighborhood associations host required informational meetings on land use and development and serve as a way the city bureaucracy can get in touch with citizens on issues that may impact them. Neighborhood association meetings allow citizens to get information and give direct feedback to both public and private sector organizations. Those seeking elected office usually use the neighborhood associations to reach out to voters and, once elected, as ways to engage with constituents. Neighborhood associations like the JWN provide important information directly to citizens on a variety of topics via newsletters like this, social media such as our Facebook page and Instagram, on our website, in our monthly eNews, and with flyers and sandwich boards. Neighborhood associations can foster community projects or initiatives including sponsoring park groups such as Friends of Monroe Park, developing projects via neighborhood matching grants like our current street safety campaign that, among other things, provides free bike and skateboard helmets, and hosting community building events such as our annual picnic. Finally, neighborhood associations act of behalf of members who have concerns about the impact of city policy or development. For example, the placement of cell towers, impact of abandoned houses, new public transit routes, or issues with infrastructure. That is what a group like the Jefferson Westside Neighbors does, but this only hints of what these groups mean to our community.

Proximity Matters
Local government can seem big, scary, uncaring, or confusing. Even the most accessible and responsive representatives, like our own Ward One Councilor Emily Semple, can seem far away. Often, we feel that our concerns, while large to us, are small and inconsequential to city staff and our elected officials. In many cases, we do not even know where to start and who to talk to, which can be daunting and frustrating. This is where your neighborhood association comes into play. Your elected neighborhood board’s role is to act as an advocate and guide to city government. If we do not know

who can help you we can find out. We have the connections and can get the attention of government officials and city staff. In many cases, we can advocate on your behalf and make sure your concerns and needs are addressed. Your neighborhood board can marshal resources and provide guidance to get things done that directly help people in the neighborhood. We are your friends and neighbors and what impacts you impacts us as well. We understand and share your love for your community and desire to make it the best it can be.

Democracy Matters
At a time when it seems elements on both the right and the left have lost faith in the democratic process as too slow, messy, and far away, neighborhoods are where collective self-governance emerges and can prosper. If you want to build strong and resilient communities you need to start at the grassroots with your neighbors. Strong and functional neighborhoods foster strong and functional cities and states. When you withdrawal and leave governance to others chances are you won’t like what you get. The price of liberty is eternal vigilance and that means active participation in your community’s future. Increasingly, neighborhood associations have been charged with NIMBYism (not in my backyard). While some people reactively oppose any development, it is not NIMBYism to act to protect your self-interests. For most of us, our homes are our largest asset and the choice of where we live is deeply personal and ties to our core identify. Neighborhoods have distinct personalities and culture that inappropriate development can disrupt or destroy. City planners, developers, and housing activists have their own agendas and solutions for urban development that are based on larger social or economic goals that may not align with realities on the ground in specific neighborhoods. There is not one solution that works everywhere. Every neighborhood has a responsibility to the larger community and to contribute to solving collective problems such as housing affordability and homelessness. The role of the neighborhood association is to find a path where the needs and desires of neighbors and those of city planners, developers, and activists can align to find the best solutions. Good policy is a slow and collective process and neighborhood associations are well-placed to facilitate the best outcomes.

- What you can do:**
- Keep informed. Subscribe to our monthly eNews, visit our website, and follow us on Facebook.
 - Attend our monthly meetings the second Tuesday of each month (September to November and January to May), at the First United Methodist Church, from 6:45-9:00 (see Calendar at left side of page for dates).
 - Volunteer, join a park group, get involved to make the JWN the neighborhood you want to live in. You can’t rely on your neighbors to carry the load.

NEIGHBORS WANTED: 2 JWN EXECUTIVE MEMBER-AT-LARGE POSITIONS AVAILABLE

As noted in our calendar, and in emails sent to neighborhood association members, there are two vacancies on The JWN Executive Board for the remainder of the 2017/2018 term.

Board members are expected to attend the monthly meeting (third Tuesday) and the general meetings (second Tuesday) as well as complete needed tasks. For more information or to submit your name please contact us at jwneugene@gmail.com.

The membership will vote on candidates at the next formal General Meeting in September. Successful candidates will serve out the term of this year’s term, until the next General Board Election, in April 2018.

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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AMAZON CANAL CLEAN UP SEPTEMBER 21

By Tamara Crafts, JWN Board Vice Chair

JWN neighbors and Eugene Outdoors are partnering to clean up the Amazon Canal on September 21st from 4-7 p.m. The Amazon “Corridor” was channelized during the 40s or 50s for flood control for the valley. The concrete begins behind the fairgrounds and continues until the intersection of 24th and Amazon Parkway. For the last couple of years, volunteers wearing safety equipment provided by Eugene Outdoors, have used a system of buckets and hooks to collect garbage and litter from the canal. The crew picked up all kinds of debris, including TVs, Xboxes, lawnmowers, metal pipes, and vacuum cleaners, which had to be hauled out from above using ropes. The most common items found were wallets with IDs and credit cards, cell phones, bottles and cans. The City hauled off all the garbage on a trailer. Thank you Eugene City Parks and Open Space staff and JWN neighbors for your efforts!

Clearly there is a culture of using and seeing the Amazon canal as a dump and not treasuring it’s function as a wildlife and water corridor through our city. This habit and behavior can change and we believe will change as evidence that people who live near the canal claim and care for it. We envision an Amazon

canal, with everything from murals to interpretive signage describing the canal’s function, history and the wildlife that use it including many types of birds and waterfowl, deer, turtles, raccoons and some people say they have seen otter, but there certainly are nutria! There is also an opportunity for artwork and lighting on the bridges making them beautiful as well as safe and interesting places. Please contact us if this interests you and you would like to be involved in these efforts. The Amazing Amazon Canal Clean Up is an annual event scheduled for late summer before the rains start. Please reserve Thursday, September 21st from 4-7 pm on your calendars for this fun event. We’ll meet in Jefferson Park at the intersection of 15th and Jefferson Streets, behind the fairgrounds. Come dressed for the weather, to get dirty and wearing tall boots for walking in water. Eugene Outdoors will provide hard hats, gloves and eye protection. Please reserve your spot by contacting Carrie Karl, Eugene Outdoors Natural Area Volunteer Coordinator at carrie.l.karl@ci.eugene.or.us or 541.682.4850. The JWN Facebook page and website will have details, so PLEASE check these sites before the event to get updates (page info in this newsletter on page 2).



NEIGHBORHOOD MATCHING GRANT UPDATE

By Tamara Crafts, JWN Board Vice Chair

2017 Project: Street Safety

This year’s Neighborhood Matching Grant (NMG) project is a Traffic Safety Campaign, which we kicked off with a bicycle/skateboard helmet giveaway at the JWN annual neighborhood picnic and Charnel Mulligan Park opening June 15. With additional support from Greater Eugene Area Riders (GEARS) and the City of Eugene’s Transportation Option staff, we handed out more than 75 helmets along with bicycling safety manuals. THANK YOU to the city and to GEARS! We also collected bike safety survey information from the many neighbors who stopped by our booth.

We have more helmet giveaways scheduled for this summer at JWN events, with the next one at Charnel Mulligan Park’s Movie in the Park on August 19th. Check the JWN Facebook page (facebook.com/JWNEugene) and website (jwneugene.org) before the event to get updates.

We’ll have traffic safety information at our general meetings this year ranging from cross walk safety to Eugene’s adoption of Vision Zero traffic safety principles (eugene-or.gov/3239/Vision-Zero).

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Volunteer Update

This past winter, as part of the “Street Safety” project, JWN’s NMG committee gathered signatures and made a door-to-door effort to enlist volunteers for the project.

Seventeen of your neighbors agreed to spend 2-8 hours each to help the city conduct pedestrian and traffic studies along key walk/bike/roadways within our neighborhood!

These volunteer-led studies were originally planned to take place in the spring but due to the timing of the NMG approval and the 4J school year they have been pushed back to this fall.

Volunteers will receive an email or phone call this September to start the orientation process. Anyone who would like to volunteer for the Street Safety NMG project should contact Dave Hurst for more information: hurst.d@gmail.com



CHARNEL MULLIGAN PARK OPENING: GRAND!

By Stephanie J. Coopman, JWN Resident

Charnel Mulligan Park enjoyed its grand opening and the JWN Neighbors celebrated its annual picnic with more than 400 cheering neighbors under cloudy, yet dry, skies on Thursday, June 15. The event began at 5pm with a parade, led by the One More Time Marching Band, from Wayside Park at 15th and Charnelton to the newly-renovated Charnel Mulligan Park.

City of Eugene landscape architect and planning project manager Philip Richardson welcomed the crowd and explained the history of the park’s renovation, noting the involvement of JWN Neighbors, New Hope Church, the Eugene Police Department, Park Watch, Cornucopia, the National Association of Realtors, Capstone Settlement Fund, Eugene Parks Foundation, and SEHS Integrated Outdoor Program. As he said, the park represents the best work of a community, “inviting everyone to participate, being transparent, digging into the issues, finding a workable balance.” Eugene Mayor Lucy Vinis then cut the ribbon officially opening Charnel Mulligan Park.

The One More Time Marching Band provided lively music. Friends of Trees offered tree tours of the Park and the surrounding neighborhood. New Hope Church and Cornucopia served up burgers and cake. With support from the

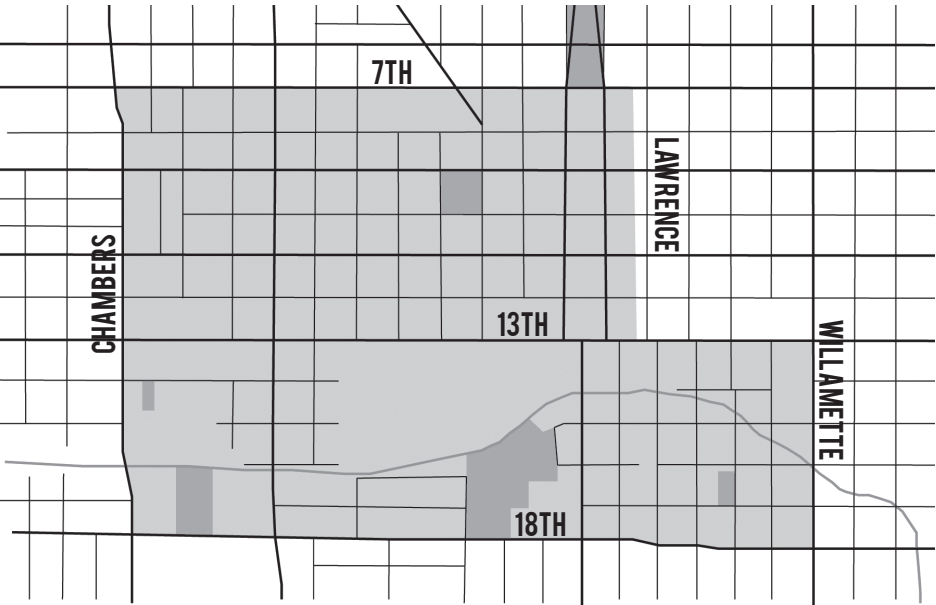
Eugene Neighborhood Matching Grants Program, Eugene Sunday Streets gave out free bike and skateboard helmets to kids and adults. Greater Eugene Area Riders (GEARS) promoted safe cycling and the organization’s weekly rides. The Eugene Police Department offered tips on neighborhood and park safety. Attendees played Frisbee, twirled hula hoops, and hopped across the fresh grass in a gunny sack race.

Learn more about the project at: www.eugene-or.gov/2305/Charnel-Mulligan-Park-Renovation



Board Member Dave found a new calling giving out helmets to kids of all ages

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.



MOVIE NIGHT IN CHARNEL MULLIGAN PARK!

On Saturday, August 19th, JWN will sponsor a showing of The BFG at Charnel Mulligan Park, starting just after dark (approximately 9pm). Bring your family, and invite neighbors and friends for what will surely be a great time in our newly renovated park located at 17th and Charnelton.

The BFG is a fantasy adventure film based on the 1982 novel of the same name by Roald Dahl, and is directed

by Stephen Spielberg. In the film, an orphan human girl befriends a benevolent giant, dubbed the "Big Friendly Giant", who takes her to Giant Country, where they attempt to stop the man-eating giants that are invading the human world. The movie is rated PG and is 1 hour and 55 minutes in length.

POPCORN WILL BE PROVIDED. SEE YOU AT THE PARK ON THE 19TH!

JEFFERSON STREET REPAVING PROJECT, PT.2
EUGENE PUBLIC WORKS NEWS RELEASE

Starting Monday, July 24, parts of Jefferson Street through the Jefferson Westside Neighborhood will be closed for road construction. Crews will close Jefferson between 11th and 13th avenues so they can rebuild the travel lanes and side-walk access ramps. During the closure, Lawrence Street is the designated detour route.

The work is expected to last until late August and is the second of four phases for the Jefferson Street project. The project will extend into November.

Jefferson Street has significantly deteriorated over the years and now requires reconstruction. The project includes the

rebuilding of the travel lanes with 10-inch fiber-reinforced concrete. Construction crews will skip several intersections that were recently reconstructed.

As with any road construction, drivers are urged to slow down in and around construction zones. Funding for this project, which is cost estimated at \$2.9 million, comes from the 2012 voter-approved bond measure.

CONTACT: Kerry Werner,
Project Manager, 541-682-5477

From Public Information Section
541-682-5523 or 541-221-7597

SAFETY SPOTLIGHT:WRONG-WAY PARKING

By Tom Happy, JWN Executive Board Chair

With the support of City of Eugene Parking Services, the JWN Board continues to work on raising awareness of the importance of safe and legal parking habits in our neighborhood. Please help us to ensure that our streets and rights-of-way remain safe for all users. In this reprint of a “Safety Spotlight” from January 2016, we again spotlight the hazards of “wrong-way” parking.

Parking the "wrong way" on a two-way street means that vehicles have to be driven on the wrong side of the road-way in order to enter or leave a parking space, which is unlawful and dangerous. Vehicles parked against the flow of traffic increase the risk of head-on or side-swipe collisions, especially when leaving a parking space. bicyclists are especially at risk because they are harder to see when the driver's side of the car is against the curb. This is true even on streets with little automobile traffic, particularly when

multiple cars are parked along the curb. Additionally, the risk to pedestrians also increases, as they do not expect vehicles to be approaching from the opposite direction. Other hazards of wrong way parking include obstruction of your rear lights at night, unnecessary confusion of other drivers, cyclists and pedestrians, and blinding on-coming traffic with your headlights. Instead of parking the wrong way on city streets, motorists are advised to turn around at a safe location and return to the parking space from the proper direction. You can report parking violations by calling Parking Services at 541-682-5729, or parking@ci.eugene.or.us

Thank you for your assistance in keeping the streets of our neighborhood safe for everybody!

FALL GENERAL MEETING PREVIEW

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

September 12th

JWN Board Election to fill 2 Member-at-Large positions. Please contact the Chair if you have any questions or desire to serve on the board: jwnchair@yahoo.com

Greater Eugene Area Riders (GEARS) will present on bicycle safety and related issues.

An EWEB representative will give an update on issues of neighborhood concern.

October 10th

Nicole Charlson of ODOT and Larisa Varela of the City of Eugene will discuss crosswalk safety and other pedestrian safety issues.

SquareOne Villages board member Susan Schroeder will offer a presentation on Opportunity Village Eugene (OVE). Susan would like to share her passion for the Village, invite neighbors to come and take a tour, and will also describe the ‘Village Sustainer’ fundraising initiative.

CITY AUDITOR PETITION UNDERWAY

(Submitted copy from Petitioners)

Two former Ward 1 City Councilors (Bonny McCornack and George Brown) and a Neighborhood Leader (David Monk) are the chief petitioners for a citizens’ initiative which would amend Eugene’s Charter to establish an Office of an Independent elected City Auditor. Independent Auditors have reduced costs and increased transparency and accountability in many cities across the nation.

The Independent elected City Auditor will provide unbiased and objective verification of public spending with the goal of improving city services, saving money, preventing fraud, waste, and mismanagement.

The Independent elected Auditor will have the authority to audit all city departments, operations, services and expenditures of public funds. The auditor will be accountable to the voters and all audits will be public. The office will be indepen-

dent of the council and/or manager and therefore immune from political pressure and punishment due to unflattering audits.

Petitioners began signature collection on July 5th and have a total of 100 days to gather at least 10 thousand signatures to put this proposal on the ballot in May 2018. The petition committee is “City Accountability” and the entire effort, including signature gatherers is powered by volunteers.

To sign the petition, look for Petitioners in turquoise-tee shirts at the Saturday and Farmers’ Markets, the Kiva, Sundance, the Library, and events all over the city.

For More Info:

https://cityaccountability.org

Or on facebook:

@EugCityAuditor

MISSING SOMETHING?

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

