



JEFFERSON WESTSIDE NEIGHBORS

COLLABORATING • LEADING • ADVOCATING

Meet Up With Us This Spring

Second Tuesday of the
month, 6:30-8:30PM

In-person meetings at First
United Methodist Church,
1376 Olive St.

Agendas and Zoom links
posted in the JWN eNews
and on the JWN website
jwneugene.org. All in-
person general meetings
streamed via Zoom.

JWN Spring 2024 General Meeting Schedule

February 13
March 12

April 9 Board elections
May 14

June/July/August (No gen-
eral meetings; watch for
announcements on the
JWN annual picnic and
other events.)

JWN eNews

Sign up for the JWN monthly
eNews and special events/alerts
at [jwneugene.org/news/
newsletter](http://jwneugene.org/news/newsletter) or email
jwneugene@gmail.com.

JWN Social Media

Keep up on all the latest news
and events in the neighborhood
by finding us on Facebook
[JWNEugene](https://www.facebook.com/JWNEugene) and Instagram
[@jefferson_westside_neighbors](https://www.instagram.com/jefferson_westside_neighbors).



JWN neighbors marching in Eugene's BEAM Bright Parade on October 14

Neighbors Unite!

Reflecting on the JWN's 2023 Accomplishments

Last year, we took on projects large and small to improve our neighborhood and respond to neighbors' concerns. How did we do it? By working with local officials, city staff, and our extraordinary volunteers! Here are highlights from the JWN's 2023 accomplishments.

Transportation Improvements

Listening to and advocating for neighbors resulted in:

- ✓ **Calming measures** to be installed on W. 8th Ave. between Monroe and Garfield. These will include curb extensions, a crosswalk at Van Buren by New Frontier Market, and speed pillows.
- ✓ **Crosswalks** for Lawrence and W. 11th Ave., W. Broadway and Chambers, and W. Broadway and Polk will be added.
- ✓ **Replacing streetlights** with LEDs, striping street parking areas, and expanding yellow painted (no parking) curbs for better pedestrian visibility around intersections as part of the W. 11th Ave. repaving project. We endorsed staff suggestions for creating a curb extension at Madison and crosswalks for planned curb extensions sites at Grant, Van Buren, Jefferson, and Lawrence. We requested marked crosswalks at all curb extension sites. (continued on page 2)





Small Businesses in the JWN

Experience the JWN's unique sights, sounds, and tastes. Support our many local businesses as you dine, shop, work, and play in your neighborhood..



JWN Board Members

Chair

Ted M. Coopman

Vice Chair

Sandra Bishop

At-Large Members

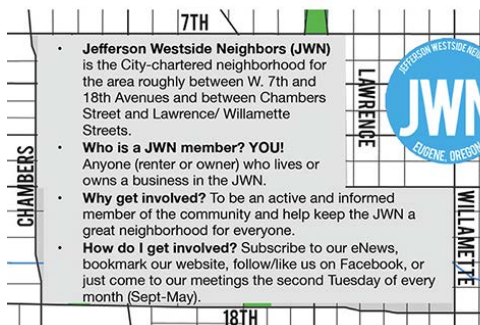
Peter Borden

Stephanie Coopman

Sue Cummings

Rene Kane

Penny Melquist



Q&A With As You Like It Founder and Owner Kim Marks



What is As You Like It?

As You Like It is an eco-conscious, gender-inclusive pleasure shop and educational center. We offer a high-quality selection of non-toxic, body safe sex toys, lubes, lingerie, books and many other eco-sexy goodies for everybody and every body! We offer a diverse selection of classes and events as well. We prioritize local so we do have

a lot of local makers in our store as well, from sticker makers to leather makers.

How long have you been in business?

We opened our storefront location in late 2014 but I launched in 2012 with a website and doing home parties while I spent two years trying to both raise money to launch my vision and find a landlord who would rent to us. Most of them turned us down for not liking "our type of business."

What are you trying to do? What's your impact in the community - in the world?

I wanted to create a shame-free, education-based place to explore your sexual needs, identity, and sexual ordination. I wanted all bodies to be able to see themselves in the store, whether it is our toys and how they work for folks, or through our book selection or lingerie, or gender affirming section. We go from size XS to 8X depending on the brand.

Thank you for coming to the JWN's annual picnic in July. What other events do you do/participate in?

We love being out in the community. We are always at Shibari and Fire Night at John Henry's or kinky bingo at The Spot. You can find us at Spectrum and other fun events like Pride.



Where can people find you?

They can visit our website at asyoulikeitshop.com or our storefront at 1655 W. 11th Ave., between Fillmore and Chambers.

As You Like It is open Sunday - Thursday, 11AM - 7 PM, Friday and Saturday 11AM - 8PM.

Calling All JWN Businesses!



When we asked neighbors at the January general meeting what is most important to them in the JWN, the top response was supporting neighborhood business-

es. One way we do this is by featuring JWN businesses in the JWN News and eNews. Want to tell your story? Contact us at jwneugene@gmail.com so we can support your business.

New Frontier Market Open During W. 8th Ave. Construction

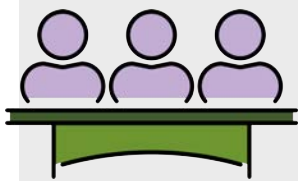
New Frontier Market at 1101 W. 8th Ave. is open during the street construction on W. 8th. Hours are 7AM - 11PM every day.

You'll find organic produce, an assortment of spices, bulk supplies, organic wines, and local craft beer, as well as authentic Indian food. Stop in and support this long-time neighborhood business!



Volunteer for the JWN Board Elections Nominating Committee

The annual JWN Executive Board elections will be held during the April 9, 2024, general meeting. The board consists of seven members and terms are for one year. Any member of the neighborhood association (anyone who lives or owns property, or owns or manages a business or non-profit within the JWN boundaries) and has attended and signed in at one of the previous six JWN general meetings may run for the board.



Following the procedures outlined

in the JWN bylaws, the board will designate 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 and voter pamphlet on the JWN website at least 14 days prior to the election.

If you'd like to join the Nominating Committee, please contact the JWN Chair at jwneugene@gmail.com.

Serving on the JWN Board

Peter Borden, JWN Board Member

In April 2023 I decided to run for a position on the JWN board. My intent was to learn, serve my community, connect with my neighbors, and be a more proactive community member.

This is a short(ish) reflection on what I've learned about myself, the community, structures, and what the work inside those structures we call government looks like.

A key takeaway is that it's all a lot more complicated, time consuming, and harder than I had imagined. It comes down to how we are answering the question: "How do we live together?" The answers are as numerous as the people asking that question.

"How do we live together?"

Our community is thousands and thousands of people strong, from all walks of life—demographics, histories, educations, philosophies, religions, and political orientations.

Everyone who has decided not to move away has decided to answer the "how we live together" question on some level. And the answer is constantly evolving, even if the structures and human behaviors are relatively consistent.

These are the five lessons I have learned in the short time I've served on the JWN board:

(1) Neighborhood associations (e.g., JWN, Whiteaker Community Council, Friendly Area Neighbors) are structures that facilitate certain kinds of action, primarily around land use and planning.

They are an important tool for that constituency or local residents to come together and interact with the city, county, and state. In one sense neighborhood associations act like a union with our collective voice being louder than an individual voice.



(2) Some people want to fight. There are times when some people are more difficult to get along with than others. What I have noticed is that there are people who focus on problems, and people who

focus on solutions. Problem-centric people don't bring any resolution to the table and are usually dissatisfied with proposed solutions. And the solutions always carry their own secondary problems or knock-on effects. For me, improving our community is about improving the quality of the problems we're trying to solve, and that takes participation that's laser focused on outcomes.

(3) *It's hard, time consuming, and exhausting.* The JWN board is a volunteer position. There are always more projects, desires, and people's needs to address, than there is interest, energy or contribution. People want things and not all are willing to invest time, money, effort, or their voice to accomplish it.

(4) *Serving on the board exposes you to more brilliant minds, and more insoluble problems.* It's rewarding when collective action succeeds, and my gosh it's surprising at how well it succeeds when it does!

(5) *I have little interest in technical things like the city code, charter, Roberts Rules of Order, legalese, and the fine minutiae of document language.* But I know why these technical things exist. They provide a framework, a code of ethics, and a rule set that function for the vast majority of people. People who are skilled in a particular area, like city code, wield an outsized power in our society.



If you have thought about running for a board position, I would recommend it. There's lots to do and there are some amazing people working on all sorts of projects and issues in the JWN. Plus, working together to accomplish a task much larger than what a single person can do is absolutely thrilling!



Call for Board Nominations

This year the JWN will hold its yearly Executive Board election at the April 9 general meeting. You are eligible to serve on the JWN Executive Board if you attended and signed in at one of the previous six JWN general meetings and are a:

- resident of Jefferson Westside (owner, renter, or live in a supported shelter),
- JWN property or business owner, or
- manager/director of a JWN business or nonprofit.

If you are considering running for Chair, Vice-Chair, or one of five at-large board seats, submit your full name, eligibility, and the position you are standing for no later than March 10 to the Nominating Committee via jwneugene@gmail.com. All eligible candidates are accepted. Candidates must submit a short biography and answer a few basic questions for the voter guide by March 27 to be on the ballot.

At a minimum, Board members are expected to attend the monthly Executive Board meetings and all general meetings. Complete rules and procedures are in the JWN Bylaws, available at jwneugene.org/about/bylaws. For more information, email us at jwneugene@gmail.com.

Exploring Our History, Building Community

Now into its second year, the JWN's historic preservation project continues to attract new volunteers to research the neighborhood's history and possible designation of one or more historic districts. The project has attracted 20 volunteers and raised more than \$3500 to fund outreach efforts and a historic preservation consultant. The group has held three training sessions in surveying the neighborhood's historic and unique architectural features. Volunteers are collecting data to update 1990s historic resource surveys. Next steps include mapping the survey data, continuing community outreach, and welcoming new volunteers (email us at jwneugene@gmail.com).



Huddleston Farmhouse
952 W. Broadway
c. 1875

Tragedy of the Commons: 8-Year Effort on Monroe Park Bathrooms Comes to a Disappointing End

Ted M. Coopman, JWN Chair

Since the early 2000s, the flush toilets at Monroe Park were open only for events and closed at all other times due to criminal activity. Back in the day, drug dealing and prostitution were problems at the park. Closing the bathrooms, installing traffic diverters, and lowering the height of landscaping were done to address these problems.

Starting in 2016, neighbors advocated for reopening the bathrooms to deal with public defecation, to service the playground, and as a resource for the unhoused. Neighbors felt strongly about the humane need for public flush toilets and making the park welcoming to everyone. Through advocacy, the bathrooms were first reopened during the summer and later year-round.

The bathrooms were completely remodeled using Park Bond funds, with the work completed in March 2023. Since then, the bathrooms have been severely vandalized. Some homeless people figured out how to defeat the locks and use the bathrooms as party shacks after hours. Clothing clogged the toilets, syringes and trash littered the floor, and human waste was smeared on the walls. Expensive hazmat crews had to be called in weekly. The bathrooms were closed more often than they were open. In addition, some people claimed the bathrooms for themselves and used violence to keep out others. This activity spread to the picnic area and made the park unusable for other visitors.



In summer 2023, neighbors and volunteers met with Parks and Open Space staff and EPD to discuss what could be done to address problem users. The Friends of Monroe Park group provides almost 2000 volunteer hours a year, including daily trash patrol and regular graffiti clean up, to help keep the park clean, green, and safe. Ongoing poor behavior issues undercut these efforts.

Bathroom vandalism costs thousands of dollars every week, money wasted on top of the funds used to refurbish the bathrooms. People who are unhoused who need access to toilets and running water are denied this resource as well as the families who take their kids to the playground. All this is due to the behaviors of a small number of people.

Eugene Parks is getting newer and better locks for the bathrooms and installing outdoor cameras. Parks staff and EPD have advocated for some time to revert the bathrooms back to being open only when they can be supervised. With the latest problems, staff originally had intended to close the toilets for a trial period in an effort to extinguish the destructive behaviors. However, since the bathrooms have been closed, problem activity has greatly decreased.



After initial resistance, neighbors and park volunteers came to the realization that under our current social conditions, open bathrooms at Monroe Park simply are unworkable. A sad end for years of effort to do the right thing. Neighbors can only do so much absent effective government intervention in dealing with our larger social challenges around crime and homelessness.

The JWN's First Fun January Un-Meeting

A Symphony of Cookies, Conversations, and Community Aspirations

On January 9, 2024, about 50 neighbors and friends gathered at the First United Methodist Church for the JWN's first Fun January un-meeting. In place of the usual general meeting, the JWN Board organized a cookie potluck party for neighbors and guests to connect, converse, and share delectable desserts.



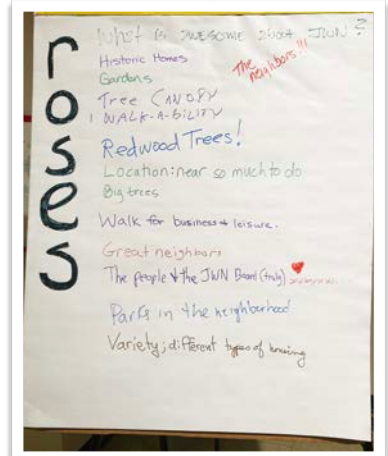
Neighbor and musician Sarah Holtschlag provided live music, playing lovely tunes on the church's grand piano. When she took a break, David Graves, another neighborhood musician, filled in with his original compositions.

Board member Rene Kane organized two activities for the group. The first, Beans in a Jar, asked participants to identify what is most important to them, such as fun and safe parks, more ways to connect

with neighbors, and big/more trees. There were five jars, but each person was given only three beans. The second, Roses-Thorns-Buds, asked neighbors to write down their answers to three questions on flip charts:

- ♦ Roses: What is awesome about JWN?
- ♦ Thorns: What can be improved or what keeps us from being more awesome?
- ♦ Buds: What is our untapped potential?

We'll discuss the results of these activities at the February general meeting.



Tiny Drops in an Ocean of Need

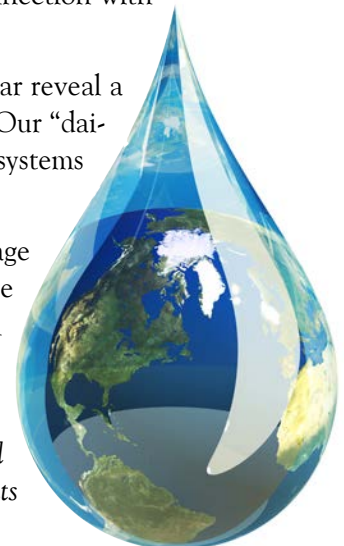
Deb Michaels, JWN Resident

My days in the JWN begin and end near my front porch. Birds, squirrels and cats greet me as I refill water bowls and feeding stations. Seasonal cycles and weather trigger tiny garden discoveries. I smile at the 12th Avenue parade—baby strollers, bikes, brisk walkers and dogs walking people. A flock of toddlers and their teachers walk by as geese honk overhead. For over 34 years I have enjoyed conversation and connection with people of all ages and life journeys. *I love and embrace* our neighborhood's magic.

You can see a lot by looking, and you can hear a lot by listening. What I see and hear reveal a creeping sense of fear and sadness that the world is unraveling at a breakneck pace. Our “daily life” continues, but underneath we know that our social contracts and support systems are breaking apart. Do you feel it too?

When I hear sirens, I grieve that Eugene has no hospital. My unhoused neighbors rage or weep or quietly balance giant bags of cans and bottles. Pete Seeger said, “I believe the world will be saved by millions of small things.” A jug of water, a book, a warm hat, some food... tiny drops in an ocean of need. Many struggle, some die too soon or alone. Beauty and despair are neighbors in the JWN. Do you feel it too?

Also known as Grandma Biscuit to countless JWN dogs, Michaels lives with her husband Christopher. They are old but well preserved as retired early childhood educators. Their cats share the house with them.



JEFFERSON WESTSIDE NEIGHBORS

c/o Neighborhoods Program
101 W 10th Avenue Suite 119
Eugene, OR 97401



PRESORTED STANDARD

US POSTAGE PAID

EUGENE, OR 97401

PERMIT NO. 377

JWN Winter 2024 Green Food Drive for FOOD For Lane County

\$1 provides 3 meals!

Last year, the JWN experimented with two Green Digital Food Drives to support FOOD for Lane County. In the years prior to that, the JWN participated in the traditional food drive with volunteers accepting donations of nonperishable food items at neighborhood locations. This required neighbors dropping off food, volunteers staffing the drop-off site, and FFLC staff picking up the donations. But now we've gone green!

Give Cash Instead of Cans

Skip the trip, the traffic, the carbon, and the cans. Instead, make a check, cash, or online donation from the warm and dry comfort of your own home. Your tax-deductible donation goes much further to feeding those in need than canned or boxed food.

Donate Today!

Go to givegab.com/campaigns/jefferson-westside-neighbors-green-food-drive to donate online or scan the QR code to the right. Alternatively, mail or drop off a check or cash to this address: FOOD for Lane County, Development Department, 770 Bailey Hill Road, Eugene, OR 97402. Include a note that your donation is for the "Jefferson Westside Neighbors Fundraiser."

