

JWN e-News :: January 7, 2007

Timely and concise news and announcements related to the **Jefferson Westside Neighbors**.

Visit the JWN Web site at: www.jwneugene.org .

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***** Upcoming events**

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 - ++ Regular business; Q&A with R-2 up-zone applicant; election for Secretary; vote on tracking EmX; vote on consideration of bylaws amendments.
 - ++ Program: Slide show on Chambers Special Zone infill standards; Info and resident input on City's "Infill Compatibility Standards" program.
- January 10 : Willamette Street Study initial community meeting.
- January 11 : Public Hearing on JWN appeal of Planning Director "code interpretation" effecting Jefferson neighborhood.
- January 15 : Deadline for Neighborhood Matching Grant application.
- January 16 : JWN Executive Board meeting.
- January 18 : Public Forum for City's "Land Use Code Amendments" process.
- January 30 : Neighborhood Climate Council program on home heating.

***** JWN Executive Board actions**

- Approved Neighborhood Matching Grant proposal for public running track.
- Supported implementation of railroad Quiet Zone.
- Recommended JWN members direct board to track EmX (BRT) plans.
- Directed action related to Eugene Neighbors, Inc. policy positions.
- Scheduled consideration of bylaws amendments for January 9 general meeting.

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- City to hold "Neighborhood Summit".
- Get to know our neighborhood businesses.
- Potential conversion of Willamette St. to two-way traffic between W. 18th and 20th Avenues.

***** How to contact the JWN Co-chairs**

===== UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS =====

***** JWN General Meeting: THIS TUESDAY, January 9**

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

Where: **First United Methodist Church -- 1376 Olive Street**

*** Note the new location. ***

Parking and entrance are on the North side of the building.

More information: jwneugene.org/january

BUSINESS MEETING: Agenda Summary

- Regular business (introductions, announcements, co-chairs report, etc.)
- Q&A with property owner regarding her **R-2 upzone application** in "redesignated" area of Jefferson neighborhood.
- **Special election** for JWN Secretary. (Candidates must be present at the meeting.)
- **EmX plans.** The Executive Board recommends approval of the following motion:

The JWN Executive Board is directed to track the City's and LTD's planning for an EmX (bus rapid transit) route along the West 11th Corridor and to keep the JWN membership informed about emerging issues that may affect the livability and character of the neighborhood.

- **Bylaws amendments.** The Executive Board recommends approval of a motion to consider proposed amendments to the JWN bylaws at the February 13th JWN meeting. The amendments are intended to encourage and facilitate more JWN members participating on the JWN board and to promote greater responsiveness of the board to the JWN membership. For an explanation and list of the specific amendments, see jwneugene.org/amendments .

PROGRAM: Nurturing Livable Neighborhoods -- Focus on Infill Compatibility Standards

- **Learn** how residents in the Chambers area of Westside neighborhood gained the city's first effective infill standards. Slide presentation showing how Chambers Special Area Zone infill standards work and how residents developed the standards.

- **Join the effort** to implement sensible infill standards for the rest of Westside and Jefferson neighborhoods. **Terri Harding**, the new City planner and coordinator of the City's "Infill Compatibility Standards" (ICS) program will join JWN members in a discussion of the ICS program. Learn current status and plans for ICS. Provide Terri information and offer suggestions to make ICS a success for our neighborhoods and other Eugene neighborhoods threatened by incompatible infill.

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***** Future JWN meetings**

The full agenda and schedule, as well as information on future JWN meetings is available at:
<http://jwneugene.org/meetings>

NOTE NEW MEETING LOCATION -- First United Methodist Church; 1376 Olive Street

- Coming up!
- February 13, 2007
 - March 13, 2007
 - April 10, 2007 :: JWN elections

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***** JWN Executive Board Meeting: Tuesday, January 16**

6:45 p.m. to 8:30 p.m
McNail-Riley House on the NW corner of W. 13th Ave. and Jefferson Street.

You can find the JWN board meeting information on the Web at:
<http://jwneugene.org/meetings>

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***** Upcoming City Council meetings.**

7:30 p.m. Council meeting starts.
Council Chamber -- Eugene City Hall
777 Pearl Street

City Council meeting dates and topics are available on-line here:

www.eugene-or.gov

(On left) Quick links: Mayor and City Council

(On left) Navigation: Meeting Information

(On right) Tentative Working Agenda

===== JWN EXECUTIVE BOARD ACTIONS =====

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*** **December 19 (regular board meeting)**

For more details on the following items, see draft minutes posted at: www.jwneugene.org/minutes .

-- Approved Neighborhood Matching Grant proposal for public running track.

Motion: The JWN Executive Board approves the Neighborhood Matching Grant proposal by David Babcock to create a 200 meter running track for the community on Cesar Chavez School property. Board approval in no way indicates any obligation or commitment on the part of the JWN

-- Supported implementation of railroad Quiet Zone.

Motion: The JWN Executive Board supports implementation of a Quiet Zone that will reduce the disruptive impact of train horns on residents of the Whiteaker, Westside, and other neighborhoods. The board recognizes the central role Whiteaker neighborhood residents and businesses and the Whiteaker Community Council should have in determining the most effective way to implement the Quiet Zone.

-- Recommended JWN members direct board to track EmX (BRT) plans.

Motion: A discussion of EmX shall be on the January 9 general meeting agenda and the JWN Executive Board recommends the JWN membership approve the following motion at that meeting: "The JWN Executive Board is directed to track the City's and LTD's planning for an EmX (bus rapid transit) route along the West 11th Corridor and to keep the JWN membership informed about emerging issues that may affect the livability and character of the neighborhood."

-- Directed action related to Eugene Neighbors, Inc. policy positions.

Motion: The JWN co-chairs are directed to take such action as they deem appropriate to assure future actions by individuals who are members of the Eugene Neighborhood Inc. board adequately identify the members' actions as not representing an ENI position, unless that position has been adopted by the ENI board or membership. The co-chairs are to report to the JWN Executive Board at the January board meeting; and, if there has not been a satisfactory response by ENI, the co-chairs are to recommend to the board whether JWN membership in ENI should be terminated.

-- Scheduled consideration of bylaws amendments for January 9 general meeting.

===== NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS =====

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*** **Reminder: JWN General Meetings have relocated**

The fire code limit on capacity, poor accessibility, and an unsatisfactory general meeting environment led

the JWN board to decide the McNail-Riley House was no longer suitable for the increased attendance at JWN meetings. Starting January 9, 2007, JWN general meetings will be held at:

First United Methodist Church
1376 Olive Street

JWN Executive Board meetings will continue to be held at the McNail-Riley House.

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*** **REMINDER: Neighborhood Matching Grants**

Got an idea for a great project in your neighborhood? Need some money?

Then check out the Neighborhood Matching Grants program at:

www.eugene-or.gov

Select: City Quick Links -- Neighborhoods

Select NMG Applications

Pre-review deadline is January 15, 2007.

NOTE: JWN Executive Board approval is required please contact the co-chairs (see below) of you are interested in submitting a proposal.

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*** **JWN resident survey complete results on "aspirations & concerns" now available**

During August and September 2006, a survey was distributed to all JWN residents, posted on the JWN Web site and handed out at the September general meeting. The survey asked residents to rate each of a list of aspirations and concerns" (residents could also list and rate additional aspirations and concerns). Over 80 people participated.

The top aspirations were:

1. Increasing the number of trees in the neighborhood
2. Enhancing Amazon Canal environment (e.g., near Fairgrounds)
3. Enhancing the Blair & Monroe area as a neighborhood focal point

The top concerns were:

1. Impacts from inappropriate infill
2. Drug dealing
3. (tie) Property crimes (house break-ins, car bashing)
3. (tie) Poorly-managed rental properties (property maintenance, noise, etc.)

The full results are available in a PDF document at:

www.jwneugene.org/documents/JWNSurveyResultsOct2006.pdf

The JWN board uses these results and the continuing feedback we get from JWN members to guide our focus for the board's efforts.

We'd love to hear from you, too! We've posted a new "Response" page on the JWN Web site at:

www.jwneugene.org/response .

Or, just contact either co-chair (see below).

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*** **THANK-YOU: Volunteers re-energize door-to-door information distribution**

We'd like to extend a BIG "Thank-You" to Pauline Hutson who has worked hard over December to re-

energize a volunteer pool who will distribute printed JWN information, such as announcements and newsletters, door-to-door.

We'd also like to thank the 20 JWN residents who volunteered to participate.

So far, volunteers have hit the streets to distribute over 1,000 flyers announcing the holiday party held in December and this month distributed a mail-in feedback card and a list of helpful City phone numbers to even more residences.

Because we don't have the capacity to deliver every month to every household, we'll use the volunteer distribution in combination with e-mail and U.S. mail to be sure every JWN resident is kept informed of meetings and can get other announcements and news either electronically or in printed form.

If you would like to help with distribution, please call Pauline at 345-8969 or contact either co-chair (see below).

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*** **THANK-YOU: First United Methodist Church provides free meeting facility**

Another BIG "thank you" to the First United Methodist Church for waiving the usual room-rental fee for their fellowship hall. As part of the JWN, they said they were pleased to participate by providing a roomy, convenient place for us to meet.

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*** **JWN appeals code interpretation affecting Jefferson neighborhood**

On November 15, the previous Interim Planning Director issued an extreme interpretation of local refinement plan policy for the redesignated area of the Jefferson neighborhood. This interpretation would allow unlimited R-2 level large-scale, multi-unit development throughout the neighborhood.

The JWN has appealed, and the public hearing on the appeal is scheduled for:

Thursday, January 11, 2007
5:00 p.m.
Sloat Room of the Atrium
99 W. 10th Ave.

*** *Please attend and testify in support of the JWN's appeal.* ***

For more information, see: www.jwneugene.org/jeffredes.html .

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** **Lot partition of 933 W. 10th Ave. denial is final; no appeal filed**

As reported in the November 29, 2006 edition of **JWN e-News**, the JWN won our local appeal of the former Planning Director's approval of a "gerrymandered" lot partition at 933 W. 10th Ave. The applicants did not appeal the hearings official's decision to the Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA), so the denial of the partition is permanent. (The applicants can submit another application at any time, however.)

Although the hearings official agreed with most of the errors we cited in our appeal, she rejected several important items including: proper public notice and comment period and the alley access prohibition & lot frontage standards. The Executive Board approved an appeal to LUBA on these items, as long as it was funded by donations. However, after getting additional legal advice, nearby residents (with the concurrence of the JWN co-chairs) decided not fund this LUBA appeal. Instead, we hope to get City Council to correct the ambiguities and inconsistencies in the current land use code. (See "LUCA" item below.) Should the applicants re-apply for a similar partition of this lot that has the same problems, and an appeal becomes necessary, nearby residents have donated funds to support the appeal fees.

For more information, see: www.jwneugene.org/partition.html .

Please contact either co-chair if you have any questions.

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*** **Council approves JWN-led Measure 37 agreement**

On December 11, the entire City Council unanimously (8-0) approved a resolution regarding a Measure 37 claim for a property within the Chambers Special Area Zone (CSAZ). The Council resolution was based on, and incorporated, an agreement that was forged over the summer of 2006 by the subject property owner, nearby residents, and the JWN Executive Board, along with helpful advice from the Goal One Coalition.

In their unanimous endorsement of this agreement, Council recognized the cooperative efforts of neighborhood residents and the subject property owner that led to a solution that's a *win* for the neighborhood, a *win* for the owner, and a *win* for the City.

The positive outcome was achieved because: a) the owner of the subject property genuinely supported development standards that residents of the area had worked over a year to create; and, b) nearby residents and the neighborhood association took a flexible, constructive approach to addressing the exceptional conditions of this situation. We want to stress that the final agreement required *no* compromise with the goals and intent of the CSAZ and S-C/R-2 standards.

You can learn more about this successful process at: www.jwneugene.org/m37.html

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*** **Council rejects attempt to undermine Chambers area infill standards**

At the same December 11 Council meeting, (past) Councilor David Kelly moved to direct the Planning Commission to review the Chambers Special Area Zone's S-C/R-2 standards. Councilor Kelly's motion was essentially directed at the S-C/R-2 density standards that limit the number of dwellings based on lot size. The S-C/R-2 standards set more appropriate limits (than R-2) for the established, mostly single-family part of the Westside neighborhood encompassed by the S-C/R-2 subarea.

All of the seven other councilors -- including all six councilors that remain on the newly constituted Council -- voted *against* the motion. Council's action shows their continuing strong support for the CSAZ standards in their current form, which Commissioner John Lawless (who was Commission President when the Planning Commission recommended Council adopt the standards) has characterized as "beautifully crafted."

Council's overwhelming rejection of the motion should dispel any doubts that a majority of the current City Council will support infill compatibility standards that explicitly lower maximum dwellings per lot in R-2-zoned sections of established neighborhoods when lower limits are supported by a thorough analysis of the neighborhood's character and "carrying capacity." as was the case in the Chambers Revisited project.

You can learn more about this issue and how residents successfully fought the attempt to undermine the CSAZ infill standards here: www.jwneugene.org/chambers.html

Also, at the January 9 JWN meeting there will be a slide presentation on the Chambers Special Area zone. (See meeting information above.)

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*** **Councilor Papé challenges staff and Planning Commission to implement infill standards this year**

At his final City Council meeting, outgoing Councilor Gary Papé -- who has been a strong supporter of

protecting the health and livability of Eugene's established neighborhoods -- issued the following statement during deliberations on the Chambers Special Area Zone (see above):

I would challenge the City Manager and our Planning [& Development] Director ... I would hope you have some infill standards together by the end of next year. Planning Commissioners any of you who are here or any of you listening please get some infill standards before the end of next year.

The JWN membership (as well as the Neighborhood Leaders Council) has adopted several motions urging the City to make infill compatibility standards a high priority.

Last Fall, the City Council specifically listed infill compatibility standards as a "High Priority" item on the Planning Division's 2006-2007 work program.

At Tuesday's meeting, JWN members will have an opportunity to hear from staff about progress and plans for the City's Infill Compatibility Standards. (See meeting information above.) Be sure to attend to learn more and provide your input into this important process.

By the way, the new City Councilor filling this position is Mike Clark who has already come out to our neighborhood to take the "infill tour" and talk about how he can support our neighborhood. We're confident a majority of the new Council will remain strongly in support of JWN and other neighborhoods.

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*** **Land Use Code Amendments (LUCA) process continues**

The City Planning staff and consulting team will hold their second public meeting in the process to make "key" changes to Eugene's land use code.

Date: Thursday, January 18

When: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Where: Bascom-Tykeson Room, Eugene Public Library

The basic plan for the "LUCA" process is that citizens and organizations can propose changes to the land use code and through some as-yet-undefined process, these will be prioritized and considered by the Planning Commission this Spring. The Planning Commission will then recommend to City Council specific code amendments from this collection of suggested changes.

It's not yet clear how well this project will be carried out, but one thing is clear: Anyone who wants to fix some of the broken items in the land use code must get those submitted SOON!

The JWN co-chairs submitted a preliminary list of potential code changes that would help protect the neighborhood character. For example, a number of these changes would fix the ambiguities and inconsistencies that led to the expensive -- but successful -- opposition to the former Planning Director's incorrect approval of the lot partition at 933 W. 10th Ave. (see above item).

We'll be posting a full report on the JWN Web site shortly, so check www.jwneugene.org for more information.

The "official" City information is at:

http://www.eugene-or.gov/portal/server.pt?space=CommunityPage&cached=true&parentname=CommunityPage&parentid=0&in_hi_userid=2&control=SetCommunity&CommunityID=228&PageID=1752

Or go to www.eugeneplanning.org and select "Code Amendments" from the left-side navigation list.

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*** **Neighborhood Climate Council program series kicks off with home heating advice**

The Climate Leadership Initiative will present a series of monthly events, designed specifically for

Jefferson Westside Neighbors residents. The first events and programs are described below. For more information contact Sarah Mazze: 346-0786, climlead@uoregon.edu

"How to heat your home without heating the planet."

Date: Tuesday, January 30
When: 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Where: McNail-Riley House

Stay warm without wasting money on home heating and emitting greenhouse gases! Join EWEB to discuss ways to save by adjusting your daily habits. Find out about EWEB programs, equipment maintenance, weatherization and more.

February's program is "Commuter Solutions" and will be held on February 22nd, same time and place.

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*** **City to hold "Neighborhood Summit"**

On February 17th, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., the City will hold a "Neighborhood Summit". Each neighborhood association is invited to have eight members attend. The goals of the event are to learn more about, recommend priorities, and develop next steps for the "Neighborhood Association Initiative Action Plan" which is a list of steps for the City to strengthen neighborhoods. The event will also provide an opportunity for neighborhood residents to build relationships with elected and appointed officials. The Mayor and City Councilors, as well as other local officials and staff will participate.

If you would like more information and/or are interested in attending, please contact either JWN co-chair by January 15. (See below for contact information.)

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*** **Get to know our neighborhood businesses**

The JWN board recognizes the importance of the local business community and neighbors getting to know each other better. Over the last few months, we've invited the businesses in our area to be included on the JWN Web site's business directory and over forty business have sent in entries.

We also plan to start inviting a guest business or two to our monthly JWN meetings to let them make a short presentation about the goods and services they provide. We think many neighbors would like to do business with local businesses and this would be a good way to foster "think globally, buy locally."

So, check out the directory at www.jwneugene.org/businesses. If you don't see one of your favorite local businesses listed there, encourage them to get listed. It's free to them, and when we patronize them we all benefit.

If you own or manage a business in the neighborhood and would like to be listed in the directory or introduce your business at a JWN meeting, please contact JWN board member Glenn Smeed at glenn@smeed.com or 686-1654.

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*** **Potential conversion of Willamette St. to two-way traffic between W. 18th and 20th Avenues**

On Wednesday January 10, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Washington Park Center (Washington St. between 19th and 21st). City staff and local consultants will be on hand to introduce the Willamette Street Study and provide background information regarding the potential conversion of Willamette to two-way traffic between 18th and 20th avenues. They'll describe the process for formation of a stakeholder group and answer questions.

Although Willamette St. isn't within the JWN boundaries, there may be some traffic impacts to streets in

the southeast corner of the Jefferson neighborhood.

For more information visit the project Web site at www.eugene-or.gov/pwprojects (click on "Willamette St. Study").

===== PLEASE LEND A HAND =====

***** JWN needs YOU!**

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: attorney, publication distribution coordinator, urban planner/architect/zoning specialist, Web wizard, fund raiser, outreach activist, parliamentarian, business relations developer.

For a description of these and other volunteer openings, please see:
<http://jwneugene.org/volunteer>

Remember, YOU are the Jefferson Westside Neighbors!

===== CONTACT THE JWN CO-CHAIRS =====

You can send your e-mails to co-chairs@jwneugene.org .

Or contact either one of us directly:

Rene Kane
rkane@highstream.net
343-4309

Paul Conte
pconte@picante-soft.com
344-2552

If you'd like to be removed from this e-mail list, please reply to this message and let us know.

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