
Southeast Neighbors News

Fall 2020

We care about the quality of life in our neighborhood and are working together to maintain and improve it.

LTD: LOVE THOSE DRIVERS! SUPPORTING TRANSIT WORKERS

from the SEN Transportation Committee



The SEN Transportation Committee's mission is to **advocate for reliable, safe, affordable transportation choices** in our neighborhood. We believe equitable and accessible transportation that connects South Eugeniens to the greater community is a **foundational public utility**. Active committee members include Rachel Anderson, Lucy Bambrey, Linda Duggan, John Q. Murray, and Jess Roshak.

The Transportation Committee invites you to join our "**LTD: Love Those Drivers**" **campaign** to show our support for Lane Transit District (LTD) employees. When you see a bus, wave hello to the drivers in recognition of their outstanding service amidst our overlapping disasters.

During COVID-19, LTD continues to ask that neighbors use **public transit for essential trips only**. We appreciate LTD's efforts to use its capacities to do public services, as it has in assisting evacuees from the Holiday Farm Fire and helping to move Junction City assisted living residents.

In April, LTD's Board of Directors put Transit Tomorrow, its dramatic bus route overhaul project, on hold due to the public's inability to effectively participate. Since July, the LTD board has been analyzing the district's updated financial outlook, as well as sought the advice of its Strategic Planning Committee in relation to **whether the board should "un-pause" the Transit Tomorrow project**.

SEN anticipates a vote will be taken at their October 21st board meeting. Our committee will communicate with our neighborhood any actions that are taken.

The SEN Transportation Committee believes that effective public engagement is still not fully possible during this time of emergency and uncertainty among our neighbors. We advocate for a **public process on Transit Tomorrow to resume only when LTD's public meetings can become fully participatory** once more, and the 2020 Census data becomes available.

The committee meets virtually, every Thursday at 1:00 p.m. and is open to all by emailing SENtrans97405@gmail.com.



Southeast Neighbors Board Members

Dennis Hebert, *Chair*
Emily Fox, *Secretary*
Christina Hansberry, *Treasurer*
At-Large Members:
William Collinge
Sue Ludington
David Monk
Alex Nedvetsky
Jess Roshak

The SEN News is the official newsletter of the Southeast Neighbors Association (SEN) and funded in part by the Eugene Human Rights & Neighborhood Involvement office.

Newsletters are produced by neighborhood volunteers and are free to residents and businesses of the neighborhood.

Space is available for letters to the editor or articles from neighbors, and published as space permits. The information provided and views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent the position of the City of Eugene or Southeast Neighbors.

SEN email mailing list: Southeast Neighbors also maintains an email list to send alerts in the event of danger in the neighborhood, and to share events, opportunities, and news. To be added to the list, send a message to: info@southeastneighbors.org

HELP

ENDURING THE PANDEMIC, PREVENTING WILDFIRES, AND DEVELOPING NEIGHBORHOOD EVACUATION PLANS

OK

from the SEN Disaster Preparedness Committee

Our world is ever changing and this year has demonstrated that change can occur rapidly and with devastating results. We became aware of the COVID-19 outbreak in China late last year and by February the World Health Organization had declared a pandemic. On February 25th, your **neighborhood disaster preparedness team activated volunteers in response**. They were initially tasked with looking in on high-risk and elderly neighbors they were aware of. By mid-March, each volunteer had surveyed a much larger area, collectively covering the entire neighborhood and **looking for the “OK/HELP” signs** included with the Spring 2020 *Southeast Neighbor News*. Many of you posted the “OK” sign in front windows to let your neighbors know that you and your family were not in need of help. We thank you for participating in this effort to communicate with and care for your nearby neighbors.

Even though the pandemic continues, we are asking that you **take down your sign** and keep it available for future use. We know that so many of us are not well-connected with our nearby neighbors. In the event of a disaster when communication systems fail, posting your “HELP” sign could very well save your life. If you no longer have your sign and would like to have one, please contact seneighborsprepared@gmail.com. We’ll get one to you!

As part of our neighborhood’s response to the pandemic, we created a page on the Recovers website to help connect those in need with those who can offer assistance. **Some volunteers continue to assist elderly and high-risk neighbors** who sought help through Recovers with activities like shopping. Due to the Holiday Farm Fire and the hundreds of displaced families in need, we have transitioned our page from the Recovers website to lane.recovers.org. Several SEN volunteers are now working with Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) to assist fire evacuees.

Recognizing the danger a wildland fire like Holiday Farm can pose even to residents in the Eugene/Springfield metro area, SEN, in partnership with several other neighborhood associations, is asking the Fire Marshall’s office to assist us **in developing neighborhood specific evacuation plans**. We are also advocating for state and local funding so that neighborhoods can successfully play the role our emergency management agencies are asking of us. Through the Neighborhood Leaders Council (NLC), a local civic organization, Eugene’s neighborhoods are **exploring the creation of a Fire Council** to maintain focus on the emerging fire danger, to assist volunteer organizations like SEN in developing concrete, data driven fire prevention policies, and to advocate for the necessary funding.

To jumpstart this initiative, the NLC is hosting the first of many **online forums to provide Eugene residents with expert advice on preparing for and responding to potential disaster scenarios**. On October 29th, the forum series begins with presentations on wildfire prevention and response. Eugene/Springfield Fire Chief Chris Heppel, Deputy Fire Chief Amy Linder, and Tim Ingalsbee, Executive Director of Firefighters United for Safety, Ethics and Ecology will identify some of the lessons learned from the Holiday Farm Fire. They will also educate attendees on how to protect their homes from wildfire, and help them develop community based solutions. If you missed this meeting, it was recorded and will soon be available on the SEN website.



MESSAGE FROM NEW CITY COUNCILOR FOR WARD 2

from Matt Keating

Thank you Southeast Neighbors for your service and stalwart advocacy for our community. Your volunteerism and willingness to step up and help neighbors in need are **commendable, serving as a powerful model.**

In particular, I am most impressed by SEN’s Transportation and Disaster Preparedness committees. These **dedicated committee persons work tirelessly to protect vital transportation lines and to build resiliency in our community** through robust neighborhood-specific disaster plans.

Looking out for one another is a core value that makes South Eugene a vibrant neighborhood; it is **a shared value that will be my North Star** as your next Eugene City Councilor.

Whether it’s critical **economic recovery**, protecting **urban-growth boundaries** and **transportation** lines, providing vital resources for our most **vulnerable community members**, cleaning up a **park**, or checking on a neighbor, we are all in this together. Only through cooperation, communication, and collaboration will we be successful.



Please **contact me any time** with questions, comments or feedback: 541-515-3819 or oregonmattkeating@gmail.com



Tugman

TUGMAN PARK VOLUNTEERS DOING GREAT WORK

We now have **official Tugman Park volunteers** to help with some much needed landscape issues there. We are a small group but very energetic. If you have walked around the park lately, you will note the **recent weeding and fresh mulch** around the young trees. We also have started to clean up the bed by the basketball court and will **plant native species** there. There are a lot of different projects to be done, so please **contact SEN Chair Dennis Hebert if you are interested in helping** with this jewel of a park in our neighborhood.

SEN LAUNCHES HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

from the Human Rights Committee

Over the summer of 2020, in response to greatly increased attention to human rights issues both nationally and locally in southeast Eugene, a group of neighbors and SEN board members began meeting to explore **formation of a Human Rights Committee (HRC)**. The vision of the HRC is that it will advise the SEN Board and **promote initiatives that support principles of human rights and equity for residents** living in southeast Eugene and throughout the community.

Activities being considered include **organizing speakers** on human rights topics for quarterly SEN community meetings, **educational programs** for community members, fostering **communication and problem solving** among community members, and other initiatives that promote human rights and equity.

The SEN HRC is in its formative stages and **welcomes input and participation** by all interested southeast Eugene residents. Meetings are held monthly by Zoom. If you want to be involved or have questions about the activities of the SEN HRC, please contact Mike McBride at (732) 685-5058 or email at mgmcbride0328@gmail.com.



Southeast Neighbors
 c/o City of Eugene Neighborhood Program
 99 West 10th Avenue, Eugene, OR 97401

Email: info@southeastneighbors.org
 Website: www.southeastneighbors.org
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/SoutheastNeighbors/



The Chair in the Corner
from Dennis Hebert, SEN Chair

Hello! We hope you are **staying safe, wearing a mask, and practicing social distancing**. Those things cannot be stressed enough this fall amid the COVID-10 pandemic.

The SEN Board and committees have kept very busy the last few months; **more help is always needed**. There are currently **two vacancies on the board**, and all neighbors are **welcome to join a committee**. If you have extra time and want to get involved, contact me and we'll talk!

If you don't know, now you know:

Speed limits will drop to **20 mph on non-arterial streets in residential districts** in Eugene. The new 20 mph speed limit legally goes into effect on each street when the existing speed limit signs are replaced. That began in Southeast Eugene in October. With the average speeding ticket \$115, you're urged to keep to the limit.

SEN GENERAL MEETINGS ARE NOW VIRTUAL!
Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 10, 7:00-8:30pm
(Zoom link to be available on SEN website & Facebook page on Monday, November 9)

Theme: **Hate, Bias and Race in Eugene**
 Presenters: **Fabio Andrade**, City of Eugene Human Rights & Equity Analyst, and **Eric Richardson**, Eugene/Springfield NAACP Executive Director
 Additional guests: **Eugene Police Department Community Engagement Specialist** to share southeast Eugene crime stats, and **Matt Keating**, newly elected City Councilor Ward 2.

A **possible name change for Lane County is being discussed, to Kalapuya County**. The reason? In the 1860 US presidential election, Joseph Lane – for which the county is named – was nominated as VP of the pro-slavery Southern wing of the Democratic Party. His sympathy for the Confederacy effectively ended his political career in Oregon. The Kalapuyan tribes have called the Willamette Valley home for over 10,000 years.

Southeast Neighbors News