

# the SUNA Times

## Spring 2009



*The Official Newsletter of the South University Neighborhood Association*

### It's Spring! *By Marilyn Milne, SUNA Chair, 344-7989*

Time to get out in the garden, and like always - time to keep SUNA thriving.

Just as when we plant seeds, the neighborhood work we are doing now will bear fruit later. I am grateful for the residents who attend meetings, study issues and offer their help. Wow! Compared to many other Eugene neighborhoods, SUNA isn't large. But we have a big interest in helping our neighborhood and that makes us very large indeed.



*We're all connected* when you're one of the many who pick up after your dog or keep an eye on your neighbor's home.

*We're all connected* when you put away your garbage, recycling and yard debris carts on collection day.

*We're all connected* when you leave your cozy home at night to attend a neighborhood association meeting.

And now, SUNA offers more ways for you to connect. Join the new parking or natural resources committees. Help organize a summer gathering in University Park, carry out tasks for our land use planning work, study traffic and child safety on Agate Street or help our UO liaison, Rick Varnum, increase our influence with the University.

If you have a few hours on your hands or would like a small monthly task, please get in touch.

We're all part of what makes SUNA thrive. And together, we're 'springing' along!

*"Eugene's older neighborhoods, with their historic houses and tree-lined streets, help to trace Eugene's built history and define the character of our city. Many of our historic neighborhoods represent exactly the sort of development that cities across the nation are now trying to promote as 'smart growth.'"*

*The New Urbanism approach to urban design takes as its model the pattern of development found in our historic neighborhoods. Promoting this compact, pedestrian-friendly development is part of Eugene's growth management goals."* "Smart Growth" From the Eugene Downtown Area Housing Policy Analysis

### R3 & R4 Height & Transition Proposals

On Feb 4th the SUNA board voted unanimously to approve height limit and transition proposals for the R4 and R3 (high density) sections of the neighborhood.

On Feb 17th the MultiDwelling committee of the ICS project voted 7 to 0 (with one abstaining) their support for the same proposal and recommended that the ICS task team send it on to the Planning Commission so as to enter it into the code amendment process. On March 9th the ICS task team also voted overwhelmingly to support the proposal and send it on to the Planning Commission in April.



*Hutton House 19th & Harris*

## Letter to Absentee Owners

SUNA's board voted to send the following letter to all absentee owners in R-3 and R-4 areas of our neighborhood. We want these property owners to ask their tenants to be good neighbors.

At the end of the letter is a list of contacts you may find helpful in resolving issues or infractions you observe.

Dear (owner):

The South University neighborhood, where your property is located, is a vibrant, caring community. We are writing to urge you to help us keep it that way.

Many of your renters may not have had prior experience living independently, and they may not be aware of City of Eugene ordinances and codes. That's why we hope you will educate your renters – both current ones and tenants to come. For example, please tell them:

- a) Outdoors noise sometimes increases in the spring, but the City's noise ordinance is in effect 24/7;
- b) The UO's Office of Student Life will respond when neighbors complain about student off-campus behavior;
- c) Residents should park in designated spots, not on lawns/landscaping, in alleys, on sidewalks or blocking driveways;
- d) Neighbors will report alcohol and drug violations to the proper authorities.

In our relationships with our neighbors who are students, we have found it helpful to distribute city and University of Oregon booklets about rental etiquette and to refer renters to the city's website\* to view a Eugene police video about breaking up out-of-control parties.

SUNA residents appreciate your help in reinforcing thoughtful behavior, and we would like to partner with you. For example, we have a list of suggestions for being a good neighbor, and we are glad to e-mail it to you for distribution to your renters. We hope our partnership with you will help you retain the value of your property while helping your renters be responsible members of the neighborhood.

If SUNA may be of assistance, please contact me. On behalf of SUNA's board of directors, thank you.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Milne, SUNA Chair

\*Partying in Eugene: Be Safe. Be Legal

### City Contacts/Resources

\*Partying in Eugene: Be Safe. Be Legal.

<http://www.eugene-or.gov/police>; click on Police Publications and Forms

Eugene Police Department Non-Emergency  
(noise, suspected alcohol violations etc.) 541.682.5111

To Report a Building or Zoning Nuisance - Reports Can Be Anonymous  
<http://tinyurl.com/c2u8ty>

SUNA's City Councilor: Alan Zelenka, [alan.zelenka@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:alan.zelenka@ci.eugene.or.us), 682.8343

## Transportation Survey Results

By Al Couper



Slow moving traffic (except on streets protected by stop signs) and the Alder Street bike lane are the most appreciated features according to a recent opinion survey of South University neighbors. Relatively less appreciated is the gridiron pattern of streets and alleys.

In terms of potential impact from infill development, the most concern was expressed for "inadequate standards for alley infill" and "reduced pedestrian and bicycle safety."

The survey results were reviewed by Professor Ev Smith, longtime South University resident and former head of the U of O Geography Department. Following are his observations.

- a) Opinions and attitudes of SUNA residents about neighborhood quality vary with the mix of homeowners, renters, workers, retirees, and people of widely different ages who live for both long and short times in the area between 18th and 24th and between Agate and Patterson.
- b) Results of the recent survey inviting comment about transportation issues show agreement over ease of getting around the rectangular blocks and intersecting streets whether on foot, on bikes, on buses or in cars. Proximity of SUNA to an expanding university comes with problems, however, not only from increases in through traffic, but also from cars

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## Board Candidate Profiles

**Janet Heinonen** — is a longtime SUNA resident who attended neighborhood schools and enjoys watching current parents walk/bike their kids to Edison. After a stint in the Peace Corps (Chile) she worked at the first Nike store in Eugene, participated in and promoted women's distance running and became the first UO Women's Sports Information Director. She and her husband Tom are the parents of two adult children. Heinonen has written extensively on the issues and politics of international track and field and is active with the Oregon Track Club and the SMART reading program. She helped coordinate SUNA's neighborhood grant project to build the information kiosks at Edison and University Park and views the City's current Infill Compatibility study to be the neighborhood's "last, best chance" to preserve its character. She has a bachelor's degree in Community Service & Public Affairs and a masters in Journalism, both from the UO.

**Jody Miller** — I am currently a real estate broker with Windermere, having been a Realtor for almost fifteen years. Prior to that, I worked in Planning and Intergovernmental Relations for the City of Eugene. I have also managed federal grants for the City of Springfield and been an Area Agency on Aging director in the Portland area. I have a Master's degree in Public Affairs from the U of O and have lived in or near SUNA almost continuously since 1967. Both my husband and son went to Edison, Roosevelt and SEHS. My husband's mother and grandparents moved to SUNA in the early forties. My hope is for SUNA to be a positive player in events and issues of concern to us.



**Mike Russo** — Hello, South University residents! I am running for your board to protect and improve this beautiful neighborhood. I believe that the combination of the leadership of Marilyn Milne, the commitment of continuing board members, and the assistance of new members will create a group that will be highly active in promoting the neighborhood.

This March, my wife and I will celebrate our twentieth year living in Eugene, the last eight of which have been on Potter Street. My sons Andy and David attend South Eugene High School and Edison Elementary School, respectively.

It has been my privilege to work on behalf of the neighborhood on several key issues. Some years ago, I worked to lobby the University to build the new basketball arena on the site it has now chosen, rather than at Howe Field. In the last year or so, I've worked with the City of Eugene and the neighborhood to create code amendments that balance the need for increased housing near the University with the need to protect our beautiful neighborhood.



**Tim Shinabarger** — My wife and I have owned and lived in our house on Agate Street since 2000. I appreciate the historic homes, splendid trees, and the people whose efforts and care make this a community. I first became active in SUNA issues when I joined the ongoing effort to persuade the City to make Agate Street safer, especially the 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue pedestrian crossing. I was elected to the SUNA board in 2007. I ask for your vote for re-election.



*Continued on Page 4*

## Survey *(continued from page 2)*

stored day and night on streets as well as front yards. Residents who responded to the survey believed that there will be further pressures on streets and alleys with dozens of new housing units appearing in SUNA from constructing multi-storied buildings, from subdividing detached, former 1-unit structures, and from filling in backlots with apartments on unpaved alleys.

- c) To ensure that SUNA continues to be an attractive and safe neighborhood, residents must insist on quality in design of new buildings and in remodeling of old; question higher density of housing in an already dense area; and ensure that speeding limits and parking restrictions are enforced.

The survey was a companion to an earlier survey asking respondents to rate the overall positive/negative aspects of the neighborhood.

The top 5 in each category are listed below. The total maximum possible points for any item was 228.

### Positive Characteristics

- 220 Slow moving traffic (except on streets free of stop signs)
- 220 Well-used bike lane on Alder
- 208 Connection by foot, bicycle, and bus to other parts of the community
- 192 Well-developed bus routes and safe bus stops
- 180 Narrow, paved streets (generally 66' wide; 90' wide on University)

### Potential Negative Impacts

- 216 Inadequate design standards for alley infill
- 208 Reduced pedestrian and bicycle safety
- 200 Excessive pavement for parking
- 200 Excessive impervious surface
- 200 Increased street congestion





## South University Neighborhood Association

c/o Neighborhood Services

99 West 10th Avenue, Eugene, OR 97401

Visit Neighborhoods on the Web: [www.eugene-or.gov/neighborhoods](http://www.eugene-or.gov/neighborhoods)

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*This is the official newsletter of the South University Neighborhood Association. Newsletters are produced by neighborhood volunteers and are produced by neighborhood volunteers and are free to residents and businesses of the neighborhood. Space is available for letters to the editor and editorial comments from neighbors. All signed letters will be published as space permits. Editorials express the author's views, not the position of the Neighborhood Association, the City's elected official, or City staff.*

## Big Meeting April 1 (No Fooling!) SUNA General Meeting 7 p.m., Edison Elementary's Cafeteria

**Crime Prevention** – Guests: Police Chief Pete Kerns and Steven Chambers, Crime Prevention Specialist. Learn about ways to increase your personal and property safety, services offered by the city and more!

**Election of Officers** – See article in this newsletter (pg. 3)

**Launch of Parking Committee** – Help to develop recommendations for easing our parking crunch!

**Launch of Natural Resources Committee** – Historic trees, University Park, urban gardens, etc. – help us keep SUNA green!

*One Lucky Person Gets \$25 to Shop at Sundance*

## Board Profiles *continued from page 3*

### Tim Shinabarger *(continued)*

I value our proximity to the University and I appreciate the vitality students (and faculty) provide to the neighborhood. Along with the rewards of living near campus, there are potential negative impacts. Currently, these include high-rise apartment construction and the conversion of single-family houses into rentals that aren't always well-maintained or managed. We as residents of a well-established neighborhood can work together for the long term to minimize those impacts.

**Mike Westervelt** – I am a current board member. I along with many of you became involved with the neighborhood upon learning of the current building trend going on along 19th. Over the past year, along with being a board member I have participated in the South University Planning Group, attended numerous city meetings and have continued to design & layout the SUNA Times. My wife, Kathy, is a teacher at Oak Hill and our son Rowen has attended both Oak Hill & Edison.



Also running for the Board: Tyan Taubner and Malcolm Wilson