

the SUNA Times

Summer 2011



The Official Newsletter of the 2011 Neighborhood of the Year!

SUNA 2011 NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE YEAR!

Neighborhood of the Year Announced at WEgene! Awards Celebration

SUNA was awarded Neighborhood of the Year for being very responsive to their neighbors concerns in a number of ways. They were instrumental in organizing a Livability Summit, a forum to discuss impacts from undesirable behaviors associated with binge drinking and partying by students and other young people that gather in the area. This effort provided an impetus to form the Neighborhood Livability Working Group, comprised of City representatives from Neighborhood Services and Police, the University of Oregon, UO students, and neighborhood and property owner/manager representatives who were tasked with identifying strategies to address this persistent and challenging problem.

SUNA has combined initiative with a willingness to collaborate to enhance their effectiveness. Examples include:

- Testifying before state legislators in an effort to grant UO Department of Public Safety (DPS) full police powers;
- Educating and organizing neighbors to respond consistently when alcohol and noise violations occur and coordinating with EPD to increase participation of absentee rental property owners in the City's Rental Property Program;
- Securing a Neighborhood Matching Grant to study bike and pedestrian traffic patterns at the interface of the neighborhood and the university;
- Coordinating with the City's Parking Services program to extend 2 hour parking limits throughout the neighborhood.

The **WEgene! Awards program** recognizes Eugene's neighborhood associations and people, organizations and projects that have made important contributions to the livability and health of Eugene's neighborhoods. The Neighborhood of the Year award is an honor bestowed upon an active neighborhood association that has demonstrated exceptional leadership and served as a model for other neighborhood groups. The winner in this category has also exhibited outstanding responsiveness to neighborhood needs expressed by their members

Behind The Scenes *by Carolyn Jacobs, SUNA Chair*



Behind the scenes SUNA residents, both board members and not, have been working hard on many fronts to protect the integrity and livability of the neighborhood.

We have, for example, been working with City Planning staff on several land use issues including building height reduction along the east/west line (in the middle of the blocks between 19th and 20th Avenues) where the low density residential zone abuts the high density zones, addressing the deficiency of open space in multi-

student dwellings, clarification of definitions distinguishing multi-family from high occupancy student dwellings, improving the manner in which density is calculated, and implementing an overlay type plan for the areas surrounding the University.

In conjunction with the Livability Task Team (which we initiated last year) we are also working towards strengthening noise and nuisance violation enforcement and penalties (including supporting efforts to move the University Department of Public Safety to become a full fledged police department). We have also joined in an effort with the University and surrounding neighborhoods to improve relationships between the U of O and the larger community.

SUNA Honored

The national organization, Neighborhoods USA (NUSA), honored the best of neighborhood organizations, newsletters and programs from across the nation at the annual NUSA conference held May 25-28 in Anchorage, Alaska. For the first time, the good work of Eugene's neighborhood associations has received national recognition at this annual event. The "Heritage Crescent Neighborhood Livability Project," a joint effort of Jefferson Westside Neighbors, South University Neighborhood Association and West University Neighbors, was a finalist in the Multi-Neighborhood Partnership category of the Neighborhood of the Year award. These neighborhoods were honored for their work to help ensure infill and redevelopment would be compatible with each neighborhood's character and would contribute positively to the surrounding neighborhood's livability.

Sunday Farmers Market 19th/Agate

UO Police Dept.

*Submitted by Karen Hyatt,
Government and Community
Relations Associate, U of Oregon*

SB 405, enabling legislation that allows Oregon universities to have police departments with full policing powers, passed the House on June 14 and now goes to the Governor for his signature. After the bill is signed into law, the University of Oregon Department of Public Safety plans to begin its six-year transition to become a fully sworn police department.

The university leaders and the UO Department of Public Safety want a community-oriented police department that is based on trust and directly accountable to campus with state-certified and state-trained police officers. With more than 23,000 students, 5,500 faculty and staff, and 295 acres on campus, the UO is a city within a city with unique needs and expectations for service. As campus has grown, so has the professionalism at UODPS with officers qualified from all levels of law enforcement to take on additional authority.

The UO is by and large safe; however, some criminals target the campus community. An average of 184 "suspicious persons" was contacted monthly in 2010 on campus by UODPS officers. Even the relatively minor citations that is a regular part of the Public Safety department's workload - tickets for criminal trespass, or for open containers of alcohol - are issued to non-students 88 percent of the time.

While enforcement activity is important, more emphasis is placed on proactive service to enhance safety. At times, members of the campus community need assistance or caretaking that professional UODPS officers will be able to provide at a higher level. The presence of campus police officers creates a safe environment that reassures the community that safety is a priority.

The implementation of a campus police department is also beneficial to the greater community. The Eugene Police Department (EPD) would not have to divert vital resources to many campus incidents as they do now. UODPS could

EPD Efforts In The Neighborhood

Although EPD is staffing-challenged, we worked hard this school year to deal with the party problems in the south university neighborhood. Enforcement is one of our most effective tools, and here is a breakdown of enforcement in south university during this school year:

Prohibited Noise citations- 63 • MIP citations- 96
Furnishing Alcohol to Minors citations- 4
Allowing Minors to Consume Alcohol citations- 19

Prohibited Noise arrests- 2 • Furnishing arrest- 1
Resisting Arrest/Interfering w/ Police/False Information (associated w/ a party) arrest- 1

64 First Response Warning Notices were issued to residents of 22 SUNA rental properties. These do not include the scores of alcohol-related citations issued to pedestrians during patrol checks.

The other tool that seems to be working is the Rental Property Program, which generates an automatic email to the property owners/managers whenever a police call for service is generated at one of their properties (whether or not police were able to respond). For this reason, it is important that complainants provide the address of the party, as opposed to "the green house at the corner of 19th & University). 4,367 emails were sent regarding calls for service in Eugene this school year.

Communication between EPD and neighbors has improved this year, as well. It is important that neighbors know about response and enforcement action, as it is easy to become frustrated by perceived lack of response.

Enjoy your summer and keep fighting the good fight!

Kelly Dixon — Station Manager
West University Public Safety Station — (541)682-5642



Community Welcome Event

The Third annual Community Welcome event will take place Tuesday, September 27. Neighbor, community, university and student leaders go door to door to welcome students living off campus back for the school year and encourage them to be good neighbors. Related initiatives to encourage good neighbor relations and improved neighborhood livability will include:

- * a redesigned packet of information distributed to students *a refrigerator magnet with spaces for neighbors to write fellow neighbors' contact information
- * provision of packets and magnets to property owners and managers in August and September for distribution as students move in If you would like to participate in the Community Welcome or help distribute materials, please contact Karen Hyatt, Government and Community Relations Associate, at 541-346-5351 or khyatt@uoregon.edu.



take the lead on many duties that only EPD officers may currently perform on campus, including lodging suspects in jail and submitting cases to the district attorney's office for prosecution. In addition, university police officers could provide quick back up assistance to municipal police officers in situations adjacent to the UO campus, such as with incidents involving aggressive subjects or during major incidents such as disturbances. Municipal and campus departments will collaborate and provide mutual aid for proactive law enforcement functions.

For more information, contact Karen Hyatt, Government and Community Relations Associate, at 541-346-5351 or khyatt@uoregon.edu.

Student impressions of livability meeting

Story by Maya Lazaro,
Managing Editor of Flux Magazine

As a student journalist at the University of Oregon who's been involved with numerous publications on campus including the Oregon Daily Emerald, Flux Magazine, and Ethos Magazine, I'm always interested in learning what issues are important to my community. My community, in this case, includes the West University Neighborhood where my apartment is unfortunately located. Through a connection with Michael Kinnison, director of the cities Neighborhood Services Department, I was able to attend a Neighborhood Livability Working Group committee meeting last month. There I met a unique group of community members who had a lot to say about what they thought should happen to improve their neighborhoods.



The meeting primarily focused on a laundry list of measures the committee had proposed to fix many of the issues plaguing University neighborhoods, including loud and disruptive student social gatherings, criminal activity, and invasive zoning laws. Most of the measures were thoughtful and innovative, although some seemed difficult to enact from a practical standpoint; for instance, I know of no student who would register a party with the Eugene Police Department without a substantial amount of coaxing. Still, it was nice to hear such courageous ideas being discussed.

Measures that appeared more promising were ones already under way. The University of Oregon recently hired a full-time Director of Substance Abuse Prevention and Student Success who will find strategic ways to reach out to the University's most at-risk students. Also, the University's campus policing has already been approved by the Oregon Legislature and is awaiting the Governor's signature and will most surely enter the law books next year.

What bothered me as a student was that most of the committee members focused on all the things students were doing wrong without ever acknowledging the difficulties we face. It was rare to hear a member talk about shady landlords and criminals who prey on vulnerable students. I am fully aware that students are often loud and disrespectful when they party, and I expect them to be treated and punished like adults when they behave irresponsibly. However, as a student it's incredibly frustrating trying to find reasonable housing nearby campus, and the fact that we are often prime targets for crime only makes it that much harder. I wish the committee had addressed these issues a little more during their meeting.

Overall I was impressed by how much the committee had already accomplished in such a short time, especially as they meet only once a month. They are doing an excellent job finding creative solutions to complicated social problems, and I look forward to seeing many of their proposed measures enacted in the future.

Visit Us At sunaeugene.org



The Best Time to Plant a Tree is ...

Did you know that trees are available to residents in our neighborhood along with help planting them at little to no cost? Is the public "park strip" in front of your home between the street curb and sidewalk a tired landscape of plain lawn and dysfunctional bark mulch, void of any tree(s)? Have you ever considered the many benefits that trees can provide to you, your property, and the neighborhood?

Trees provide beauty, grace and peacefulness for our neighborhood setting. Trees bestow a host of other economic, environmental, and social benefits. These benefits include: increase in property values, reduction of utility costs by "low tech" cooling to our homes and streets during the summer, screening and softening undesirable views of development, traffic calming, reduction in crime, bringing people together to care and work for the common good of the neighborhood.

Since 1997, the non-profit Eugene Tree Foundation has been working to enhance community livability. ETF has planted several thousand trees in neighborhoods throughout Eugene and is available to help you. Please contact me at my number below if you are interested. I will personally help you select, acquire and plant the appropriate tree(s). For more info about our organization see our web site: www.eugenetreefoundation.org

To answer the question the best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago, the next best time will be this fall in our neighborhood!

Jeff Lanza
Planting Coordinator, Eugene Tree
Foundation, 541 / 342-2183

*Trees provide beauty, grace
and peacefulness for our
neighborhood setting*



South University Neighborhood Association

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Visit Neighborhoods on the Web: www.eugene-or.gov/neighborhoods

This is the official newsletter of the South University Neighborhood Association. Newsletters are published and mailed courtesy of the City of Eugene. Newsletters 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 officials, or City staff.

TRAFFIC COUNT RESULTS



The first results are in. The basic "peak hour" bicycle/pedestrian counts have been completed for all intersections along 18th and 19th Avenues from Patterson Street to Agate Street. Total movement data is displayed on the bar chart on the SUNA Web page (sunaeugene.org)

The counts were performed under a Neighborhood Matching Grant awarded to the South University Neighborhood Association by the City Neighborhood Services Program. Purpose of the grant is to establish base-line data to help determine whether traffic safety or convenience improvements are needed now or in the future. The focus is on bicycle and pedestrian traffic movements

to and from the South University neighborhood and the U. of O. campus.

Figures on the graph show only total movements on each intersection. The actual data is more fine-grained and shows "pass-through" and "turning" movements for both bike and pedestrian traffic entering each intersection from north, south, east and west.

A professional traffic engineer and a Technical Advisory Committee will analyze the data and present initial recommendations later this summer. Those recommendations will then be published for public review and comment prior to final publication of the project report in the fall. For additional information contact Bill Aspegren 541-242-3828 or Al Couper 541-344-0760.

All of us are fortunate to live in a historic, diverse neighborhood within walking and biking distance to schools, restaurants, grocery stores and shops. Seniors, children, working families and students all share this neighborhood. Please be respectful of your neighbors, and keep voices low especially when walking at night and enjoy the neighborhood!

National Night Out - August 2nd, University Park