

Prepare for Crowded Classrooms ...

By John Faville, NeN Board

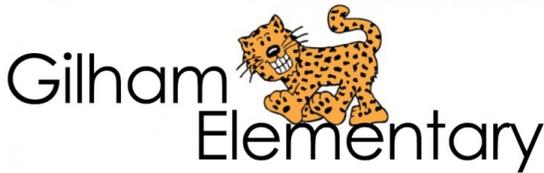
In the January 20, 2022, NeN General Meeting, interim 4j Superintendent Cydney Vandercar is going to talk about capacity limits in our local schools.

Every primary school in the Sheldon High School area has seen growth in enrollment. All four major schools are at capacity. Gilham Elementary in particular is now the largest primary or middle school in all 4j.

This shouldn't be a surprise. Eugene as a whole is growing at double the rate the city planned for. We all know about the burst of development here in the NeN area. A 40% increase in the number of addresses in the last 7 years. And the areas around us are also growing, Coburg especially, creating overflow that puts pressure on our local schools.

But the real explosion is yet to come....

Crowded Classrooms, on Page 2



- January 20, 2022, NeN Meeting
- 4j Superintendent Vandercar talks about a crowded future
- Eugene Planning projects the coming growth in NeN's area
- Meeting open to everyone who lives or has a business here

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Crowded Classrooms

At some point, all those kids who are opting for online lessons will come back to already overcrowded schools. Superintendent Vandercar is talking to us now because

expanding school capacity takes lots of time.

It will take 5 years from the 2018 bond issue

to the opening of the first new school in 2023. So if use is going to be made of that 4j property east of Coburg Road, planning needs to start now.

For that January 20th meeting with Superintendent Vandercar, please send us questions you want to put to her. Email them to newsletter@neneugene.org.



NeN's Meeting about Safe Sleep Sites for the Homeless

By Anne Millhollen & Kirstin London, NeN Board Members

We brought together a Q&A panel of people with experience with neighborhood safe sleep shelters: Frank Bonser, Lead Operations Pastor, First Baptist Church; Dan Bryant, Director, SquareOne Villages; Heather Sielicki, Carry It Forward; Pam Wooddell, Friendly Area Neighborhood Association. Here's what they got asked:

What is needed in a sanctioned shelter? It needs a rest room, trash services, water, a place to prepare food, supervision, and security to protect the residents (such as pole lights and fence). Some sites are funded only by donations; others have city and county funding.

Are people screened before being allowed in? Yes. There are criminal background checks. They try to select people who can get along both with each other and with the neighbors.

Are there rules? Residents sign an agreement to comply with the rules of the camp. No drunkenness, drug use, threats, overnight visitors. Weekly meetings resolve most issues.

What behaviors lead to eviction? People mainly get evicted when there is violent behavior.

Are there services to help people find permanent housing? Once people have a safe place to sleep, there is help available to them.

Won't they bring crime into the neighborhood? There is far less crime associated with people in these sanctioned shelters than there is from those in illegal camps.

Do these sites help the root causes of homelessness, like mental illness or drug addiction? You cannot treat these problems so long as people are living on the street. They must be in a safe place first.

What do these sites look like? Safe, clean, and orderly.

What can the average person do to help? 1) join a group, volunteer, or help build something, 2) contribute financially, and 3) advocate for more affordable housing.



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with the cost and availability of care.
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them. **Please go to *DCCT.life*, Fundraising.**
Thank you, David Strutin, MD, a neighbor

Neighbors,

If congestion and traffic are a concern to you. Or neighborhood safety. Or emergency preparedness. Think about joining the NeN Board. Help us build a better and more inclusive place to live. Help us keep our neighbors informed and working together on the issues that impact our quality of life. We offer an open platform where ideas and opinions can be shared by all. Kevin Reed, chair@neneugene.org

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The Homeless Question Councilor Clark Took On

If we create sanctioned sites, will we then finally enforce law and order at the others?

First, I appreciate the work by everyone who's here. What you're doing is helping folks who want to get well. And doing so with an awful lot of private effort. I think that is the sort of work that builds communities in the most positive way.

But that's a very different question from dealing with homelessness in the city as a whole.

I believe our city's policy towards homelessness as a whole is incomplete. We are predominantly carrot and no stick. We have quite a bit of opportunity—not enough, but quite a bit. But we don't have accountability. I asked this question the other night during Council. We discussed the opening of two new microsites, and I said, 'Great. How many people from Washington Jefferson Park moved there?' And the answer was: None. It is not currently City policy to compel someone to get help and get their life on a path to wellness.

I think that we should operate on a larger scale citywide to have a more centralized system at the River Avenue facility, the capacity to direct people towards appropriate service, and somewhere near to 300 emergency beds. And we should hold people accountable for bad behavior considerably more toughly than we do.

The Park at Striker Field

Supply chain issues for materials like wood, concrete, and steel, plus a shortage of skilled labor, has led to higher costs and fewer contractors available. Therefore Parks has shifted the timing: bidding the projects now, with anticipated completion in fall of 2022.

They have also had to reduce costs by eliminating traffic calming on Grand Cayman and postponing some of the planned amenities: petanque, pickleball, and basketball. Postpone until when? Parks has commitments from the 2018 bond measure that will occupy it for 5-7 years. So another phase of implementation *might* have to wait until then.

Next year's park will still be an important addition to our neighborhood, with a large playground, spray play, open playing field, walking paths, parking, picnic shelter, restrooms, and an informal performance amphitheater.

The official name of the new park? The City is still mulling that.



Gilham Road Sidewalks

The project hit two problems that put it way over budget: a) skyrocketing construction costs, and b) regulatory requirements. On November 17, Lane County's Transportation Advisory Committee recommended approval of a two-phase plan for moving forward.

Phase 1 uses the existing funds:

- Filling in sidewalks on both sides of Gilham between Ayres and Ashbury.
- Completing the west side sidewalk between Ashbury and Don Juan.

They anticipate being able to start work in the spring of 2023.



Phase 2 depends on finding new funds:

- The west side sidewalk would be completed through Sterling Park Place.
- Sterling Park Place to Mirror Pond will remain a local access road maintained by the fronting properties.

It's certainly been a long road to getting a better road for the neighborhood.

Remember the Creekside Park Picnic Shelter?

Sure, a pre-covid memory. The money was all raised, but what happened?

Increases in raw materials and labor costs put the original design out of range. To its credit, Parks has owned the problem and is covering the redesign fees to bring the shelter to an affordable price. Parks will also spring for picnic tables once the shelter is completed.

There's lots of final details, but the new design is approved. Construction next spring?

Credit goes to Emily Proudfoot at Parks and Dane Butler, a very good NeN neighbor.