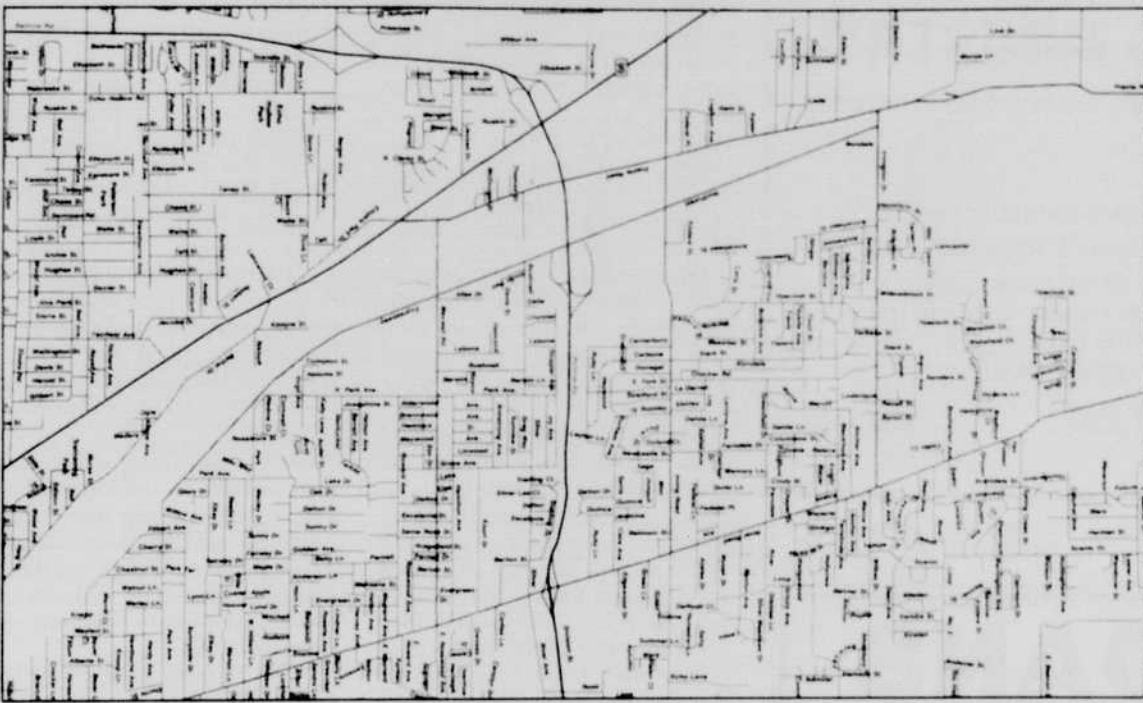


## Community



Santa Clara/River Road area map.

# Town councilors against annex

By Scott Wyland  
Emerald Contributor

City council members from Eugene, Springfield, Santa Clara and Glenwood met Tuesday to discuss the possibility of merging their respective towns into a single city. None of them found the idea agreeable or plausible.

If people wanted to live in Eugene, they would, said Lee Beyer, president of the Springfield City Council. "For some reason or other, they've chosen to live in a smaller town," he added.

Emily Schue, representative for the Eugene City Council, said she was there to discuss how the Lane Council of governments could improve their relations but that any merger between the cities "won't happen any time soon."

To Tony Nichols, president of the Santa Clara/River Road city council, consolidation was a more emotional issue. The city of Eugene has been taking serious steps to annex Santa Clara/River Road for the last five years, against most of the townspeople's wishes, he said.

"I didn't point a gun at my wife's head and tell her to marry me," he said. "I don't understand why the city of Eugene is trying to force us into annexation."

Both Schue and Beyer supported the annexation of Santa Clara/River Road, however. Both agreed that annexation of the area was overdue.

"Santa Clara/River Road should have never been allowed to develop the way it has," Beyer said. "It should have been annexed years ago."

If Eugene annexed Santa Clara/River Road, the residents would fall under the jurisdiction of Eugene. Thus they would pay Eugene's level of taxes and receive Eugene's city services.

"Seventy percent of the people in River Road/Santa Clara oppose annexation," Nichols said. "If we get annexed, our property taxes will go up \$600 a year. The city of Eugene isn't offering any services that will make the increased taxes worth it."

According to Schue, the city of Eugene used a \$6 million federal grant to furnish sewage treatment to Santa Clara/River Road after a contaminated water supply in the area was discovered. Now Eugene is compelled by the federal government to annex the land into which it invested the millions, she said.

Nichols rebutted Schue, saying that there is no federal or state mandate compelling the city of Eugene to annex Santa Clara/River Road. Nichols

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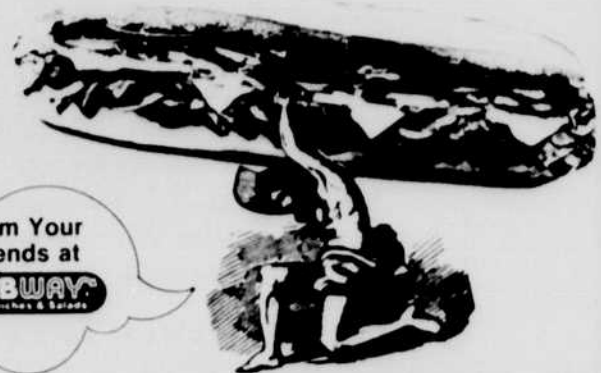
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