

came a dry dock for dead ships (it is only the largest of several boats lining the alley).

This situation might be just another case of urban blight, just an aesthetic wart. But one of the byproducts of this lack of updated building codes has led to what some now call Eugene's dirty little secret, the problem nobody wants to talk about: the diverting of water flow because of unrestrained infill.

A friend of mine who has lived in the Friendly neighborhood for 25 years had a bone-dry crawlspace beneath the house until two years ago when the infill activity became almost feverish. When several hundreds of gallons of water started to fill the crawlspace after heavy rains, we knew something dramatic had changed the neighborhood, this time something at an even deeper level than mere aesthetics.

Eugene sorely needs updating of its codes, not just to untie the binding codes that inhibit the lively evolution of its downtown, but new codes that can keep mindless infill from destroying its once lovely, older neighborhoods. Perhaps this will begin with the election of some more proactive city councilors?

*B.D. May  
Eugene*

LETTERS POLICY: We welcome letters on all topics and will print as many as space allows, with priority given to timely local issues. Please limit length to 250 words, keep submissions to once a month and include your address and phone number for our files. Email to [editor@eugeneweekly.com](mailto:editor@eugeneweekly.com) (please put "letters" in the subject line), fax to 484-4044 or mail to 1251 Lincoln, Eugene 97401.



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