

any extra meetings. He said he preferred a golf game to attending an extra meeting.

Well, I just can't get over Leiken's statement. When an elected official places his personal fun over his responsibility for the common good of the people he has been elected to serve, perhaps a new representative is needed.

Carleen Reilly
Eugene

BOGUS ISSUE

Why is it that *EW* takes every bogus issue that has a chance of stimulating negativity and runs into a wall with it? Your few paragraphs about the Whiteaker community on Dec. 20 (News Briefs, "Whiteaker Elections") were an insult.

You talk about majorities and minorities and "collective voice" as if you knew what you were talking about, and as if the issues you wish to discuss were specific to Whiteaker, yet they aren't. Don't you have better things to do that pretend that this is news?

You quote Marcella Monroe as an authority who opines about "disempowerment," as if the Whiteaker community consisted only or primarily of the disenfranchised who are not being represented. This Orwellian obfuscation of the facts is what is actually disempowering the Whiteaker community, but that doesn't have news appeal and so it's never printed.

The record shows that during much of the last two years or more there wasn't even a quorum of 10 people at many monthly WCC meetings, and so everyone had to go home. That's been the actual level of participation and "community interest" in the WCC by its own members. The board has simply made the organization more rational by creating actual structure where none existed before.

So the WCC board decided to have tri-monthly meetings instead of monthly meetings, just like most other neighborhood organizations in Eugene.

Don't you have more respect for your readers or your community than to take the innuendos of a "vocal minority" as gospel and then preach jive to the congregation? You wrote that story with zero input from the people you were defaming. Shame on you.

Dennis Ramsey
Eugene

BLOOD ON THE ASPHALT

Did you know that the kid who was killed by the Churchill Skate Park over the summer was not the only one? Towards the end of the summer, another child was killed crossing the road without a crosswalk from the Churchill Skate Park to the Churchill Market. Most of the kids are too lazy to walk 100 feet to the crosswalk down the street. If we were to put a crosswalk there, the number of accidents would decrease. It's not just killing people, but it's also setting a bad example for younger children.

Everyday I see younger kids crossing here without a crosswalk. The child who was hit in the beginning of September was only 10. Next time the child could be younger. Let's try and prevent this from happening again.

Parents and the city try to get us to use

the one close by, but they don't help when we actually do. A few of my friends and I were crossing in the crosswalk the other day and waited for about five minutes to cross before someone stopped. They ask us to use it, but when we do they don't encourage us at all.

As you can see we really need a crosswalk in this very dangerous area.

Sam Tichenor
Grade 7 - Kennedy Middle School

ON CITY TREES

My experience with Eugene's Public Works tree program has been better than Davy Ray's (1/10). I've lived in Whiteaker for more than 30 years and Eugene more than 40. A year or two after I moved here, the city planted street trees on numerous blocks in the neighborhood. For the next year or two they diligently watered and tended to the new trees and replaced ones that didn't thrive. Over the decades these trees have filled many gaps in Whiteaker's canopy and add to what has "always" been here.

I am impressed by the conscientious efforts of city crews to maintain the even older, larger trees across my street. I witnessed the benefits of their work as these trees weathered the high winds we recently experienced.

We had a dying older tree in the planting strip in front of our house. I contacted the city over several years urging they remove it. Each time the city acknowledged the tree was obviously unhealthy but, given the circumstances of Whiteaker, they didn't want to risk a confrontation over its removal. As falling limbs progressed from an annoyance to a true hazard the city removed the tree and replaced it with a nice dogwood.

I'd be a lot happier if Eugene demonstrated the same understanding and care for its economy as it does for its trees.

Ron Saylor
Eugene

A GOOD NEIGHBOR?

I am appalled at B.D. May's letter in last week's (1/10) *EW*, which publicly condemned several of my neighbors' houses. I am disappointed that May seems to place his property values over his community values.

Last I checked, being a good neighbor means working cooperatively with your fellow neighbors towards a common goal of neighborhood improvement. Being a good neighbor means walking out of your house and respectfully communicating your concerns to your neighbors in person — *not* in *EW*. Cowardly and mean-spirited public attacks on individual community members do not further the goal of neighborhood improvement or good neighbor relations.

May's letter is not an example of community building or improvement. It is an example of community destruction and it represents an untoward invasion of our community members' privacy.

Let's honor the name of our neighborhood together and keep our neighborhood relations constructive, respectful and friendly.

Erin Gilday
Friendly Neighborhood

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