

WCC General Meeting  
November 11,2015

- Board member, Kathy Feely shared her experience with CERT (Community Emergency Response Training). CERT is a large scale emergency training for community members. There is no cost to attend. Trainings are 3-4 hours long and meet 2 nights a week for a month. There will be another training this winter. Kathy encouraged all residents of the community to attend in the event there is a large scale emergency in our area. Safety first! You can find more information on the website:  
<https://www.fema.gov/community-emergency-response-teams>
  
- **QUIET ZONE!** Board Chair, Sam Hahn shared a lot of information about the proposed “Quiet Zone” project. Sam was invited to be on an advisory panel that consists of 12 Eugene area residents and business owners. 3-4 of which are staffed by the City of Eugene. Sam was initially the only Whiteaker community member invited to be a part of the panel. The panel has since invited Jeff Althouse, Owner/Founder of Oakshire Brewing located at 207 Madison Street in the Whiteaker. The advisory panel will have approximately 6 meetings in an effort to draft a proposal for the Quiet Zone project. The WCC had originally been approached by the City of Eugene about this project in 2006. At the time the WCC was given no real consideration in the Quiet Zone issue. Some key points of the Quiet Zone project:
  - There are 10 crossings being discussed in the project. 7 of which are in the Whiteaker neighborhood. The project would involve closing 2 streets in the Whitaker to vehicles, Madison and Lincoln.
  - The project is rumored to cost 7.4 Million dollars without closing Madison and Lincoln. It would be a projected cost of 5.4 Million with those streets closed. The rail crossings at the closed streets would be equipped with walls/barriers or fencing in an effort to keep the crossings safe.
  - The other crossings in the project would be equipped with 2 additional, slightly larger arms.
  - Even with the Quiet Zone project in effect, Train Conductors would still be allowed to sound the horns if they see the need for safety reasons.

The discussion then revolved around several key issues:

- The impact on traffic in the neighborhood if 2 streets were closed.
- How will this project be funded?
- Would the proposed extra safety measures keep people off the tracks?
- The impact on Whiteaker businesses like Oakshire, Wandering Goat, Grain Millers, Cornerstone, and Eugene Wine Cellars.
- What would be the impact be for property owners and renters?
- Who actually benefits from this project?

It is clear that this is a very important issue for the Whiteaker. The WCC will continue to gather more information on the project as well as feedback from Whiteaker community members who are both in favor of and opposed to the Quiet Zone project.

There will be on going discussions about the Quiet Zone project at the WCC General meetings, every 2nd Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be December 9, 2015 at the Whiteaker Community Center. Meetings start at 7pm. If you live or work in the Whiteaker, you ARE a WCC member!