



# NENA NEWS

March 2018

## ASPEN STREET PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE UPDATE

By Jeanne Wesley-Wiese

One of the approved projects by the Bozeman City Commission of the NURB (Northeast Urban Renewal Board) Work Plan is the Aspen St. Pedestrian Bridge. A neighborhood resident since 1976, I serve both on the NURB and as a NENA officer for. In all of these positions I have been a major supporter of this project.

This project has been strongly supported by the neighborhood for many years. I have as a resident serving on the NURB seen this project as the ONE project that would actually serve the residents who bike, walk, push their strollers, run, etc. as well as the many visitors to our neighborhood. Our other projects are much needed street reconstructions that serve the vehicular and commercial traffic on our two very busy streets: Tamarack and Peach.

The estimated cost of the project is \$78,000, which covers the bridge but not the estimated \$11,000 to \$17,000 for sidewalks on the north side of Aspen Street required by the City. Normally, the City requires property owners to pay for sidewalks. In this case they would be covered by the TIF. Most of the money needed for the cost of the Bridge, \$82,000, has been budgeted for over the life of the TIF. We are within a few thousand dollars of the estimated total.



Location of proposed Aspen St. pedestrian bridge (white rectangle, center of map).

This bridge would act as a nexus for many other streets, trails, and alleys encouraging non-vehicular traffic in the neighborhood. It is important to note that the Aspen St. public right-of-way is the ONLY street right-of-way not abandoned by the City, from Main to Tamarack (and perhaps Oak), that allows east/west access across Bozeman Creek.

With all the new urbanization occurring in the NURB District, it is even more critical that we preserve, protect and enhance our natural amenities. Enhancing the stream corridor in our neighborhood for public access was one of the recommendations made by the RUDAT last Spring. The bridge will bring more attention to the protection of the stream corridor.

The intersection of Aspen and Rouse is designated by the Montana Department of Transportation as a legal pedestrian crossing. Many residents feel it is a safer way to cross Rouse than the two very busy intersections, Peach/Rouse and Tamarack/Rouse. It was reported to the NURB at its March meeting that the State will not begin reconstruction of Rouse this summer due to ROW issues and lack of funding. Hopefully Aspen Street will be clearly marked as a pedestrian crossing as part of that reconstruction when it does take place.

A few of the residents on this small section of Aspen (between Rouse and the Church Street right-of-way) have voiced opposition to this project. Their concerns include losing the ability to use the public right-of-way for trailer parking, the cost of the project, and safety concerns. Details about these concerns are recorded in the NURB minutes.

Preliminary work has begun. We have paused to insure we have the proper amount of funds available with the added expense of the sidewalk on the north side of the street required by the City. It would still be of interest to the Board moving forward to know the degree of support or lack thereof, this project has from the residents who live here. You can email the NURB via Robin Sullivan our administrative support at [rls.59714@gmail.com](mailto:rls.59714@gmail.com).

## A Letter From the NENA President

I want to thank everyone who made the effort to attend our last meeting. Good turnouts make for more interesting meetings.

We have several important issues moving forward this year.

1. There is a major development being proposed for the property on Cottonwood and Ida, near the train depot. The developers presented their proposal to NENA in January, seeking neighborhood feedback.

2. There is potential development of the wetlands on the Delaney property east of the Village Downtown.

3. The NURB would like to know if NENA members would support a footbridge across the East Gallatin on Aspen Street to provide better walking access to the neighborhood.

These are all issues that will affect our neighborhood quality of life, and we hope you will follow these issues in an informed manner.

After two terms and four years as NENA president, I have decided not to seek another term. Amy Kelley Hoitsma is interested in serving as your NENA president for the next term, and I strongly support her candidacy. It has been my privilege to represent you as a NENA officer, and I believe we have a strong team of NENA leaders to help us move forward.

Thanks,

Dave Chambers

# VisionNE: The Eyes and Ears of the Hood

By Amy Kelley Hoitsma

Last April, the American Institute of Architects sent a design assistance team to Bozeman—and specifically the northeast neighborhood—to hold listening sessions in our neighborhood and produce a report with suggestions on how we might preserve the character of our neighborhood in the face of increasing development (see BozemanRUDAT.com).

An ad hoc group of NE neighbors and businesses formed to follow up on the energy and ideas generated by the R/UDAT, and came up with the name “VisionNE.” The group looked at ideas presented in the report that are practical, positive, and able to be executed by volunteers. One of the strategies adopted was to find ways to deepen the “brand” that is the NE neighborhood, so that new businesses and developments would want to fit in and be part of what makes the NE unique within Bozeman. One successful project was the revival of NENA’s infamous Parade of Sheds last September.

Another priority of the group has been to engage with potential developers early on in the planning process for projects in our neighborhood, and encourage those developers to meet with NENA. Earlier this year, ThinkTank and the 400 Development Group did that, presenting their Cottonwood/Ida PUD to NENA in January. It was an opportunity for the neighbors to provide constructive feedback and work through potential conflicts before they finalize their plans with the City.

Since the mission and projects of VisionNE are so aligned with that of NENA, the group decided it made sense to refocus the group as a committee within NENA. The VisionNE committee will now serve as the “eyes and ears” of NENA in terms of potential developments coming our way. It will endeavor to engage developers early in the planning process and encourage them to present their plans to NENA and seek constructive feedback from the neighborhood.

A request has recently been sent to Andy Holloran of HomeBase Montana to do just that: to present to NENA his plan for the ONE 11 Lofts, a 5-story, 50-unit building proposed for the corner of Lamme and Willson, across from the old hospital building.

**Please consider joining the VisionNE committee to have a meaningful impact on future development in our neighborhood!**

## BOZEMAN CLEAN-UP DAY SATURDAY, APRIL 21<sup>ST</sup>



Meet at the Bozeman Public Library at 8:30 a.m. to enjoy a complimentary breakfast and grab a City-provided “clean-up kit” with trash bags, gloves, orange safety vests, and other information about how you can keep our community clean! Visit [www.Bozeman.net](http://www.Bozeman.net) for more information.

# Let's Work Together

by Vickie Backus

**T**he Northeast Neighborhood is not immune to the issues and challenges related to Bozeman's surge in population growth. The NENA board thinks the most effective manner to minimize the impact these issues and challenges will have on the quality of life and unique character of our neighborhood is to create committees that will proactively address them. These committees will focus on one particular issue or challenge and report its activities and accomplishments to the NENA board at board meetings. We will be starting with a handful of committees whose primary focus is listed below.

As a member of NENA, you are already aware that we live in the most eclectic, coolest part of Bozeman. Let's work together to keep it that way! Sign up for a committee and be a part of the change you want to see.

**VisionNE:** Whatsup in NENA? Ask VisionNE. This committee will focus on being the "eyes and ears" for the neighborhood for projects being proposed within the neighborhood. Its members will meet with developers early on and/or get them to present to the neighborhood association as a whole so that future development will maintain and enhance the character of the neighborhood. If inspired, the committee could also do outreach for things we might want for the neighborhood in terms of development: an artist/maker cooperative? A preschool?

**NENA Businesses:** Our neighborhood is an eclectic mix of residential and industrial properties as well as home to a variety of small businesses and artists. This committee will concentrate on the needs of the northeast's businesses. It will stay current on new policies and regulations that could impact small businesses and will help organize events that showcase them, e.g., the Northeast Christmas Stroll.

**Traffic Calming, Parking and Roads:** Whoa, slow down partner! Increased population means more cars traveling and parking on our streets. This committee will work to ensure the impact of more cars does not negatively impact the quality of life of our members, and that transportation policies and any road modifications reflect that our neighborhood is still largely residential.

**Quiet RR Crossings:** Shh BNSF, people are sleeping! As the name states, this committee will work to get safe, quiet railroad crossings at Griffin, Rouse and L-Street. Tasks will include getting funding for a study and working with MDT and the City's transportation department to get the new crossings installed.

**New Trails:** Put on your walking shoes, this committee will concentrate on the development of new trails within the neighborhood and appropriate connections to other trails and amenities and general upkeep of existing trails such as litter collection.

**Bozeman Wetlands Creation and Preservation:** Did you know at the time of Lewis & Clark a large portion of our neighborhood was a wetland? Today a small remnant east of the Village Downtown is all that remains. This committee will work towards the preservation of this wetland where over 75 different bird species can be found. Let your imagination soar and work towards organizing things like birding and education field outings.

**Parade of Sheds and Outreach Events:** Let's Party! This committee will help promote and sustain the eclectic, funky image of our neighborhood. It will organize our Parade of Sheds event and create other outreach opportunities.



2017 Parade of Sheds

# PLEASE COME TO THE NENA SPRING MEETING: Wednesday, April 25th, 7-9 PM at the Beall Park Center

## Spring Meeting AGENDA

1. **Welcome** (Dave Chambers) – 10 minutes
2. **Elections (President, Vice-President)** (Vickie Backus) – 15 minutes
3. **Police Update** (BPD) – 15 minutes
4. **Open Space Levy** (Peter Brown, GVLT) – 15 minutes
5. **NURB Report/Street Construction Update** (Bobbi Clem) – 15 minutes
6. **Aspen St. Bridge** (Jeanne Wesley-Wiese) – 10 minutes
7. **Wetlands Update** (Vickie Backus) – 5 minutes
8. **VisionNE Update** (Amy Hoitsma) – 15 minutes
9. **Open Mike/Other Issues** – 15 minutes

### Get more involved

## BECOME A NENA OFFICER!

Spring is a time of change, and that's true for NENA as well!

This year the offices of President and Vice President are up for election. These are two-year terms. To date, Paul House will be running for re-election as Vice President, and Amy Kelley Hoitsma will be running for President, but anyone can nominate themselves or others at the meeting.

**PLEASE CONSIDER RUNNING FOR AN OFFICE!** Come prepared to nominate yourself (or willing others) and **VOTE** to better your neighborhood organization!

## Vote YES for Open Lands

by Peter Brown, Gallatin Valley Land Trust



**G**allatin County established the Gallatin Open Lands Program in 2000. This program was started by concerned citizens and public officials that were witnessing unprecedented land use conversion of wildlife habitat and agriculture lands to subdivisions that were fragmenting the county's scenic open lands.

Since that time, voters passed two open space bonds in 2000 and 2004 that produced \$20M in funding, which has helped in the purchase of public open space parks and open space conservation easements throughout the County. Gallatin Valley Land Trust and other private land conservation partners have worked hard to conserve just under 50,000 acres of working farms and ranches and established public access trails and parks by leveraging \$5 of outside matching funds for every \$1 of taxpayer money through this program.

In 2017, the Open Lands Program ran out of money. "Vote YES for Open Lands" and its partners are hoping to renew the funding in partnership with Gallatin County in 2018 by asking voters to support a levy on the June primary ballot. The levy will help to support the continuation of a highly successful program that has protected some of the iconic and scenic working farms and ranches you know and love in Gallatin County as well as continue to support public access projects in your backyard.

Please come out to the next NENA meeting to learn more about this effort, as presented by Gallatin Valley Land Trust.

**For more information, visit [foropenlands.org](http://foropenlands.org)**

## PLEASE VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE: [WWW.NENABOZEMAN.ORG](http://WWW.NENABOZEMAN.ORG)

We are working to get the site ready in time for the April 25 spring meeting. If it's not live yet, please check back and sign up to receive NENA notifications!