

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

May 13, 2010



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IN THIS WEEK'S EDITION

HUCKLEBERRY PATROL VOLUNTEERS TACKLE MIDTOWN GRAFFITI
EUGENE AIRPORT RECOGNIZED FOR SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS
OSU VOLUNTEERS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN EUGENE
LIBRARY OFFERS KIDS' BOOKS IN SPANISH AT CENTRO LATINOAMERICANO AND LOCAL SCHOOLS
ELECTED OFFICIALS INVITED TO BASEBALL GAME AT PK PARK
HEALTHY STEPS TO AGING WALK
SHELDON COMMUNITY CENTER AND POOL HOSTS SPECIAL FUN NIGHT
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE DIVISION STUDIES INNOVATIVE TECHNIQUES FOR WETLAND RESTORATION

AROUND THE CITY

Huckleberry Patrol Volunteers Tackle Midtown Graffiti

Friday, May 7, marked the first shift of the season for the Huckleberry Patrol. Huckleberry Patrol volunteers are a part of the Eugene Police Department's (EPD) Volunteers in Policing Program, which partners citizens and police in support of EPD's crime prevention and community policing efforts.



This eight-member, volunteer team, tackles graffiti in the midtown area of Eugene (11th to 15th, and Charnelton to Ferry). The volunteers travel by bicycle, working in two-person teams to locate, document, and remove graffiti. They wear blue vests that clearly identify them as volunteers. Photos of graffiti tags are downloaded to a server folder and catalogued. The volunteers also keep an activity log and submit an e-mail briefing after each shift that is shared with all team members.

May 7, team founder, George Jeffcott (foreground in photo), and his shift partner, Larry McHenry, responded to graffiti abatement requests from the Assistance League of Eugene's Gently Used Thrift Shop and the Florence Apartments, but they also located and removed graffiti at the First Christian Church, the Black Forest Tavern and Anastasia's Antiques. Throughout the shift, people walking by stopped to thank the volunteers for their efforts.

Businesses that sign up to receive Huckleberry Patrol services have the option of providing matching paint. When team members discover graffiti on businesses that have not signed up for the service, they approach the manager to offer their service and provide the necessary paperwork that will allow the volunteers to remove any graffiti they find on the business in the future. The team has relied on the generosity of local business for donations of graffiti abatement supplies, including paint, brushes, coveralls and a bicycle cart.

For more information, contact Volunteers in Policing Program Manager Carrie Chouinard at 541-682-5355 or carrie.f.chouinard@ci.eugene.or.us, or visit www.eugene-or.gov/policevolunteers.

Eugene Airport Recognized for Sustainability Efforts

The Eugene Airport air cargo building was awarded LEED® certification by the U.S. Green Building Council. It is the first LEED-certified building constructed by the City of Eugene, and is currently home to Horizon Air Cargo, Lawrence Air Service and several air cargo shipping companies.

The \$3.1 million air cargo building was part of a \$6.2 million project that included the aircraft ramp area and other infrastructure needed on the south end of the airfield. Construction of the 11,000-square-foot building was completed in June 2008. Funding came from a ConnectOregon grant, a Federal Aviation Administration grant, and Eugene Airport funds.



Green features of the building include:

- More than 90 percent of construction waste re-used or recycled
- New building materials had more than 25 percent recycled content
- Wood used in construction 100 percent certified by the Forest Stewardship Council® as sustainably harvested
- A 17 percent reduction in total building energy use through increased building insulation
- High reflectivity roofing
- More efficient HVAC systems
- A 35 percent increase in water efficiency through low-flow fixtures
- Improved indoor air quality through low emitting materials, such as sealants, paints, adhesives, and carpets

The LEED certification process was achieved through a combined effort between the Eugene Airport, M & H Architecture, Inc. and Essex Construction. In 2009, about 1.4 million pounds of air cargo was flown out of Eugene.

For more information, contact Cathryn Stephens at 541-682-5430 or cathryn.e.stephens@ci.eugene.or.us.

OSU Volunteers to Make a Difference in Eugene

Eugene residents may be pleasantly surprised to see several dozen people wearing orange and black T-shirts tidying up a section of bike path in Eugene. Volunteers from the OSU Alumni Association will meet Saturday, May 22, at 9 a.m. near the Campbell Senior Center at 2nd Avenue and Mill Street. The group will work for three hours weeding, spreading gravel and generally tidying up along the bike path between there and the DeFazio Bike Bridge. The City of Eugene will provide gloves, tools and direction. Participants will receive coffee and pastries, a modest lunch and a free, donated T-shirt bearing a special commemorative logo.



The volunteer co-coordinator of the Eugene portion of the 2010 OSU Day of Community Service is Brian Westerberg, a 2008 Oregon State graduate (BS in business management) who lives in Eugene and is an agent for American Family Insurance. "I'm happy for the opportunity to show not only that we have school spirit but also that we're productive members of our community," said Westerberg, who noted that there are 5,000 Beavers living in Lane County, many of them looking for convenient public service projects.

The staff co-coordinator for the Eugene event is Kevin Miller, a Eugene resident who worked for many years as an editor and reporter at the Register-Guard, before joining the OSU Alumni Association as editor of the *Oregon Stater* alumni magazine. "As an Oregon Stater who has lived in Eugene for almost 30 years, I told my colleagues at the OSU Alumni Association that I was sure Beavers in the Duck-ish end of the Willamette Valley would respond if we expanded our annual day of service to Eugene," said Miller.

Miller noted that Lorna Baldwin, Eugene's Volunteers in Parks coordinator, made it especially easy to plan and schedule the work party. All are welcome to participate. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged and can be done at www.osualum.com/volunteer_day.

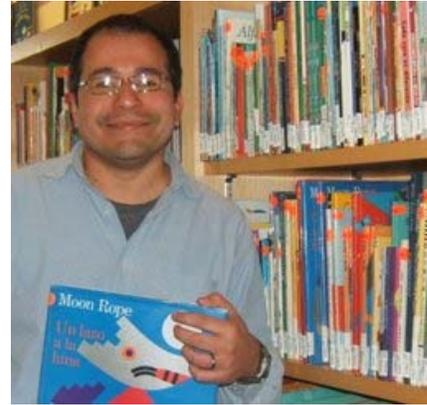
For more information about the event, contact Volunteer Program Supervisor Jackie Hallett at 541-682-4844.

Library Offers Kids' Books in Spanish at Centro LatinoAmericano and Local Schools

The Eugene Public Library is collaborating with four community partners to make children's books in Spanish more easily available to local Latino families and teachers with bilingual students. Children's books in Spanish have been placed at Centro LatinoAmericano and at the family resource centers of César E. Chavez, River Road/El Camino del Río, and

Malabon elementary schools.

Research shows that when parents read to their children, the children develop better reading skills, which in turn leads to better academic performance throughout their lives. "We want to make it as easy as possible for parents and teachers to find and use these books," explains Eugene Public Library Youth Services Manager Greg Rodriguez. "With the help of our community partners, we'll be able to make these crucial educational resources available to people where they are, at places they're already visiting."



The family resource centers at Eugene School District 4J's César E. Chavez and River Road/El Camino del Río schools will use the books onsite as well as lend them to parents and teachers. Centro LatinoAmericano and the Family Resource Center at Bethel School District's Malabon Elementary will use the books as part of regular story times and playgroups for young children. During this one-year pilot project, the Eugene Public Library will rotate the selection of books among the four community locations. At any time, each school center will have 100 books and Centro LatinoAmericano will have 50 books.

Rodriguez adds, "We hope this project will also serve as a bridge to visiting the library, where kids and families can find a much larger collection of books and many more opportunities for learning and fun." For more information, contact the Eugene Public Library at 541-682-8316.

Elected Officials Invited to Baseball Game at PK Park

The Mayor and City Councilors are invited to be part of Public Safety Day this coming Saturday, May 15, at the University of Oregon's PK Park as the Ducks take on East Tennessee State in the second game of a three-game series. Game time is 5 p.m. Public Safety Day is the university's way of honoring and saying thank-you to the many emergency response personnel who serve in our community. Fire & EMS and Police Department personnel will be acknowledged before and during the game, and a number of public safety vehicles will be on display. The expectation is that a good time will be had by all. For more information, please contact Deputy Chief of Special Operations Joe Zaludek, of the Fire & EMS Department, at 541-682-7103.

Healthy Steps to Aging Walk

The City of Eugene Adult Services program invites adults age 50 and older to get a step ahead on a healthy lifestyle and celebrate Older Americans Month in May. The Healthy Steps to Aging Walk is a noncompetitive event promoting the benefits of walking. It usually draws dozens of participants who can choose between a one- or three-mile route.



This year's event will be held on Saturday, May 15, 9 a.m. – noon, starting at Campbell Community Center, 155 High Street. The event is free. Finishers receive a certificate and are entered in a raffle for great prizes.

For more information or to register, call Mel Mann at 541-682-5318.

Sheldon Community Center and Pool Hosts Special Fun Night

The City of Eugene Youth and Family Services is offering a special Family Fun Night on Friday, May 14, to benefit the Relay for Life Team, "Crayon Chaos." The free event will be held at Sheldon Community Center and Pool, 2445 Willakenzie Road, and kicks off at 5:15 p.m. with "The Family Mile Challenge."

From 6 - 9 p.m., there will be carnival games (10 cents per ticket), free hot dogs, chips and lemonade, music by Tim Patrick and DJ Victor, swimming at Sheldon Pool, and cartoon shorts with Phinneas and Ferb next door on the big screen. Kids can also take a free swimming lesson and parents can register kids for one of Recreation's 103 summer camps. Popcorn and ice cream will be available for 50 cents each.

This event is being held in addition to monthly Family Fun Nights held at Sheldon, Petersen Barn and Amazon Community centers which usually draw more than 100 people each. For more information about this event, call Kim

McManus at 541-682-5312.

Parks and Open Space Division Studies Innovative Techniques for Wetland Restoration

The Public Works Parks and Open Space Division, Lane Council of Governments (LCOG), and the Institute for Applied Ecology have been awarded a \$151,000 wetland program development grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to study methods for restoration and management of wetland prairie ecosystems. The project will span three years and will test the use of innovative techniques for maintaining diverse, native plant communities.



The project started May 6 and 7, when 100 sheep grazed 10 of the 50 experimental plots at the City's Coyote Prairie site to help reduce the amount of existing vegetation and open up bare spots in the soil.

While sheep are a familiar sight in the Willamette Valley, targeted grazing has only recently begun to be used as an alternative to gas-powered mowing for ecosystem management. In spring, the sheep like to eat succulent young grasses and broad-leaved plants, reducing the amount of space taken up by these plants.

The newly opened space will be seeded this fall with native forbs to increase the diversity of native plant community. Although grazing is used in other places across the country to achieve restoration goals, this study will be one of the first opportunities to evaluate this new restoration tool in the

Willamette Valley. Grazing will be compared with three other techniques (mowing, haying, and ecological burning) as part of this research.

For more information, contact Natural Areas Restoration Supervisor Trevor Taylor at 541-682-4888.