

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

May 26, 2011



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IN THIS WEEK'S EDITION

**SPENCER BUTTE MIDDLE SCHOOL RECEIVES OREGON GREEN SCHOOL'S HIGHEST AWARD
ECLECTIC SAXOPHONE QUARTET CONCERT AT THE LIBRARY
NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCED AT ANNUAL WE-GENE! AWARDS CELEBRATION
NEW PROGRAM AND WEBSITE MAKES IT EASY TO PLAY OUTSIDE
MONGOLIAN DELEGATION VISITS EUGENE TO LEARN ABOUT ECOSYSTEM POLICIES**

AROUND THE CITY

Spencer Butte Middle School Receives Oregon Green School's Highest Award

Spencer Butte Middle School received the highest award possible in the Oregon Green School program last week. It is now proudly flying the Oregon Green School flag on its flag pole. Spencer Butte Middle School currently holds a unique place in Oregon as the only middle school in the state to achieve the Premier-level certification as part of the Oregon Green School program. They received their Premier-level Oregon Green School Flag and a \$500 Oregon Green School Incentive Grant offered by the City of Eugene and Lane County. Mayor Kitty Piercy was present to help recognize this achievement.

The school has much to be proud of, as BJ Blake, the school principal states, "We as staff and teachers don't do anything for these students that we know they can do for themselves." That includes filling out the application to be an Oregon Green School and doing the work to get there. Achievements include:

- Building a new greenhouse from reusable wood, new raised bed gardens
- Taking an Ecology Class trip to the Umpqua Basin to restore trails;
- Taking a Green Class educational trip to Andrews Experimental Forest;
- Organizing the Eugene iMatter March this year;
- Operating an Earth Day celebration booth to share the school success with the community;
- Assisting the Arts and Technology Academy in conducting a waste audit; and
- Hosting a monthly Green Club movie night (including the movies "*Blue Gold*" and "*Food Inc*") to promote environmental awareness.

The statewide Oregon Green School program supports schools in showing their commitment to "go green." There are 22 Oregon Green Schools in Eugene, seven throughout Lane County, and more than 200 throughout the state.

For more information, contact Anne Donahue at 541-682-5542 or anne.c.donahue@ci.eugene.or.us.



Students show a "thumbs up" for salad greens they grow themselves.



Green team students used City grant funds to build a new greenhouse.

Eclectic Saxophone Quartet Concert at the Library

The Downtown Eugene Public Library will host a free concert of world music by the Eclectic Saxophone Quartet on First Friday, June 3, at 6 p.m. This special concert kicks off Summer Reading 2011, a series of events for all ages united by the theme “One World, Many Stories.”

Local music lovers will recognize talented players Rich Berg, Charlene Decker, Annalisa Morton, and Jonathan Neher who perform with the Eugene Symphony, the Oregon Mozart Players, the Swingin’ Marmalukeys, and other groups.

On the First Friday of each month, the Downtown Library stays open until 8 p.m. For more information, call the Eugene Public Library at 541-682-8316 or visit www.eugene-or.gov/library.

Neighborhood of the Year Announced at Annual WE-gene! Awards Celebration

The South University Neighborhood Association (SUNA) was awarded 2011 Neighborhood of the Year at the 2nd annual WE-gene! Awards on May 19. Sixteen neighborhood associations and several community groups were recognized during the event. In all, over 100 people celebrated the work of neighborhood associations, individuals, projects and groups who contribute to Eugene’s safety, beauty, community connection, and care for its most vulnerable neighbors. SUNA was recognized for its responsiveness to neighborhood concerns and its collaborative work with the University of Oregon, City departments, and property owners and managers in addressing impacts from campus-area parties and alcohol-related behaviors. Among the community organizations recognized were the Eugene Storefront Art Project, Egan Warming Center, Metropolitan Affordable Housing, Bailey Hill Road Safety Committee and the Common Ground Garden..



Common Ground Garden /Friendly Area Neighbors and Mayor Piercy

For the WE-gene! Awards, each Eugene neighborhood is invited to recognize a person, organization, business or project that made a positive contribution to its neighborhood. Neighborhoods also nominated themselves or another neighborhood for Neighborhood of the Year. This year, three neighborhoods – Downtown Neighborhood Association, Friendly Area Neighbors and SUNA - were nominated to receive the award.

For more information about the annual WE-gene! Awards, please contact Rene Kane at 541-683-6243 or Cindy Clarke at 541-682-5272, both of Neighborhood Services in the City Manager’s Office. Contact South University Neighborhood Association Chair Carolyn Jacobs at 541-683-8556 or carolyn.i.jacobs@gmail.com for more information on the South University Neighborhood Association.

New Program and Website Makes it Easy to Play Outside

The Oregon Recreation and Parks Association (ORPA) has created The Outdoor Seekers program and website to make it easy and fun for kids and their families to play outside. The Outdoor Seekers program is an outgrowth of the Oregon Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights which identifies 10 outdoor activities in which every child has a right to participate. Recreation Services is a member of ORPA and its staff was instrumental in creating the Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights.



The Outdoor Seekers program has gathered all outdoor recreation information in one place so that people interested in finding something to do outside won’t have to check each individual agency’s website. The website also has a downloadable activity “passport” that’s a great way for kids and their parents to keep track of activities and determine how many of the 10 “rights” to outdoor activities – such as following a trail, climbing a tree, or playing in a nearby park – they have completed. When they’ve completed all, they get a fun prize.

For more information, go to www.outdoorseekers.com or contact Craig Smith at 541-682-5334.

Mongolian Delegation Visits Eugene to Learn About Ecosystem Policies

On May 17, Parks and Open Space (POS) staff hosted a delegation of 10 people from Mongolia's Office of Nature, Environment and Tourism, National Security Council, and Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology, as well as two representatives of The Nature Conservancy's Program in Mongolia. The delegation was interested in learning about policies and regulations related to ecosystem services and their management. The group is preparing to draft new national legislation to protect air, land and water resources in Mongolia. Specifically, they came to Eugene to learn about Oregon land use laws and the City's Wetland Mitigation Bank and Stormwater Program.

Neil Bjorklund, POS planning section manager, provided an introduction to local regulations, land use laws, and policies related to the stormwater program and wetland protection. Trevor Taylor, POS Natural Areas Restoration supervisor, followed this presentation by leading a field trip to west Eugene to share on-the-ground wetland and waterway restoration and management projects. The Eugene visit was one stop on a three-day visit to Oregon, which was selected because of its well established reputation as a leader in the protection of ecosystems and the important values they provide. The visit was organized by The Nature Conservancy, who will be sending staff to Mongolia to follow up with additional information sharing.

For more information, contact Neil Bjorklund at 541-682-4909.



From left: Mr. Ch. Jargalsaikhan (Vice Minister, Nature, Environment and Tourism), Trevor Taylor (City of Eugene Natural Resources), Bolormaa Enkhbat (UO Student), Dr. G. Davaa (Head of Water Sector)