

# EUGENE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

July 21, 2011



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#### JAPANESE OBON FESTIVAL TO FEATURE DANCING AND DRUMMING JULY 30

## AROUND THE CITY

### Downtown in Bloom

It's that time of year when the city of Eugene enjoys beautiful flowers, especially downtown. This year, members of the Facility Management Division downtown crew are maintaining 135 hanging baskets and 271 large bowl planters throughout downtown. This is a big task and the crew benefited from participating in a Rapid Process Improvement workshop last year which resulted in both a streamlined routine to water the hanging baskets and large planters, and reduced costs.



The workshop identified inexpensive improvements that could be made to the existing watering carts, including more powerful pumps for faster water flow; relocation of the pump controls; spring-loaded, retractable hose reels that replaced stationary hose mounts; longer hoses that allow for several baskets and planters to be watered per stop; and a swiveling driver's seat that made it easier and quicker to get in and out of the cart. As a result of this process, the crew has been able to reduce the time it takes to water the flowers by three hours a day, a reduction of more than 0.5 FTE in seasonal labor for the six-month period between mid-May and mid-October.

This year, Facilities is also partnering with these three downtown groups who maintain the bowl planters in front of

their businesses: Kesey Enterprises' McDonald Theater, Lane Community College downtown campus and Passionflower Design.

For more information, contact Dave Lane, Facility Management Division, at 541-682-8327.

### Award Recognizes Efforts to Reduce Greenhouse Gases

The Materials Management Committee for the Oregon Global Warming Commission's "Roadmap to 2020" was recently honored with a special award for "leadership in policy development," by the Association of Oregon Recyclers (AOR). The City of Eugene was actively involved in the work of the committee. Babe O'Sullivan, City Manager's Office, and Ethan Nelson, Building and Permit Services, served as members during the last year.



The committee's work included 38 separate recommendations for actions. The result was one of the nation's most forward-thinking and comprehensive proposals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions through materials management. Materials management consists of the traditional solid waste management activities of hauling and disposing of garbage; but, it also includes looking at the full impact of consumption and addressing climate change impacts from a comprehensive, systems-based perspective. As a result of the committee's work, the commission and the state as a whole have a stronger foundation for reducing greenhouse gas emissions through materials management.

In addition to City staff involvement in the Roadmap to 2020 effort, Councilor Alan Zelenka co-chaired the land use and transportation committee for the commission, producing recommendations that further align the objectives of the City's Climate and Energy Action Plan, Envision Eugene, and TransPlan, with statewide initiatives.

For more information on the award, the Oregon Global Warming Commission, or how to calculate a carbon footprint, contact Ethan Nelson at 541-682-5224 or visit the commission website at [www.keeporegoncool.org](http://www.keeporegoncool.org).

### **Eugene-Kakegawa Sister City Committee Invites Delegates for 2011 Japan Trip**

The Eugene-Kakegawa Sister City Committee is seeking persons interested in joining a delegation to Kakegawa, Japan from Oct. 4 – 14, 2011. The 11-day visit will include tours of Kakegawa, Tokyo, and Kyoto and participants will be guests of honor at the annual Kakegawa Autumn Festival. Bilingual assistance will be provided at all times and, for those interested, basic lessons in Japanese will be offered prior to the trip.



Kakegawa is a city in western Shizuoka Prefecture, Japan. Bordered to the south by the Pacific Ocean, the city developed from a castle-town into a thriving regional commercial and agricultural center with an estimated population of over 117,858. Eugene and Kakegawa established a formal sister city relationship in 1979.

For over 30 years, the Eugene-Kakegawa Sister City Committee has promoted events and activities which lead to greater understanding between American and Japanese people, including the exchange of delegations and homestays between Eugene and Kakegawa. Anyone interested may join and participate in committee activities.

For more information about the October 2011 Kakegawa delegation, contact Jim Knepler at 541-554-1376 or [ekscjim@gmail.com](mailto:ekscjim@gmail.com). For information about the Eugene Sister City Program, contact Keli Osborn at 541-682-5406 or [keli.m.osborn@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:keli.m.osborn@ci.eugene.or.us).

### **Berrian Elected to National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors**

Telecommunications Program Manager Pam Berrian, Information Services Division (ISD), was recently elected to the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors' (NATOA) national board of directors for a two-year term starting October 2011. The City has been a member of NATOA since 1996 when Congress passed the Telecommunication Act, the largest overhaul of this nation's communications laws since 1934. NATOA is a public/private-sector membership organization that supports the communication interests and needs of local governments, and provides critical technical and policy advocacy information on federal communications laws, Federal Communications Commission (FCC) administrative proceedings and rulings, judicial decisions, and technology issues impacting the interests of local governments, especially relating to authority for managing commercial telecommunications uses of the public rights-of-way, and approving cell tower land use zoning applications. To learn more about NATOA, go to [www.natoa.org](http://www.natoa.org).

At the City, Berrian manages over 125 Ordinance 20083 telecommunications provider business registration accounts, enforces public rights-of-way long-term use licensing requirements, mediates cable TV subscriber complaints (per the federal Cable Act—yes, it's her office number on the bill!), assists with contracts for providers who wish to use City property, assists Intergovernmental Relations staff as a legislative reviewer, and manages the department process for projects supported by the Telecommunications Fund (over 100 since FY03). The City's Telecommunications program website is at [www.eugene-or.gov/telecom](http://www.eugene-or.gov/telecom).

Pam has been with the City for 20 years and is past-president of the Oregon Chapter of NATOA, serves on the League of Oregon Cities' Telecommunications Committee, is on the planning committee for the annual Oregon Connections Telecom Technology conference, represents the City on the Regional Fiber Consortium, and served for four years on the Governor-appointed Oregon Telecommunications Coordinating Council.

For more information, please contact Randy Kolb, ISD, at 541-682-5075 or [randy.c.kolb@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:randy.c.kolb@ci.eugene.or.us).

### **Investigation of the Wastewater Collection System Begins July 25**

During the summer and early fall, crews from the City of Eugene Public Works Department will be evaluating possible defects in the public wastewater collection system in the Far West, Whiteaker, West University, Downtown and Jefferson Westside neighborhoods. The work will take place on week days between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. beginning on Monday, July 25. Three techniques will be used: closed-circuit television inspection, dyed water, and isolated smoke-testing. Isolated smoke-testing enables staff to investigate defects that allow stormwater runoff and groundwater to enter the public wastewater collection system. In addition to isolated smoke testing, closed-circuit television allows staff to pinpoint the location of possible defects.

Testing will begin in the downtown area and the entire project is expected to take several months to complete. During the tests, which are endorsed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, non-toxic, white smoke is released into underground sewer lines to identify problems. The smoke will not harm plants or animals and will quickly dissipate leaving no residue or stains. Residents are notified before testing begins in their neighborhood. A notice will be placed on residents' doors one or two days before investigation work begins in each area.



Smoke rising from the ground indicates a defect.

After smoke is blown into a sewer line, crew members will use closed-circuit television inside the sewer system to locate where the smoke is exiting the public system. White smoke rising from the ground generally indicates a crack or other defects in a sewer line. Deteriorated sewer lines and improper stormwater connections cause a problem called inflow and infiltration. The region's wastewater collection and treatment system is designed to carry only so much water and sewage. Inflow and infiltration of stormwater runoff and groundwater can overload the system, increasing the difficulty and cost of transporting and treating wastewater.

If smoke-testing reveals a defect in the public portion of the wastewater collection system, the defect is corrected as soon as possible. If extensive defects are found, capital rehabilitation projects are planned, funded and completed to correct the problem. If smoke-testing identifies a stormwater connection prohibited in the City code, such as a roof drain connected to the sanitary sewer, the property owner is notified and is required to correct the problem. If the testing indicates a defect in the private portion of the sewer (usually in the line that connects the building to the public sewer), the owner is notified of potential problems with the sewer, and repair or replacement of the defective line is recommended.

For more information, contact I/I Investigation Project Manager Carla Spangler at 541-682-4894 or go to [www.eugene-or.gov/smoketesting](http://www.eugene-or.gov/smoketesting).

### **City of Eugene Helps Local Businesses RE:think to Reduce Waste and Save Money**

The City of Eugene recently joined forces with BRING Recycling, a local non-profit, to offer free, hands-on assistance to businesses that want to reduce waste, conserve resources and save money. BRING's RE:think Business Certification Program began as a pilot project in March 2010. Over 60 businesses participated, and 22 were certified under the program. With RE:think's help, businesses were able to improve recycling, reduce waste and energy costs, and change their purchasing habits.



The City's financial and technical support allows RE:think to continue to offer this valuable service to the business community and meet community sustainability goals. Together, the City's Waste Prevention and Green Building Program, Public Works Stormwater Management and Wastewater programs, and the Sustainability Office, collaborated with Lane County Waste Management and EWEB's Energy Management Services to provide technical support and develop an advisory team for RE:think.

The goals of the RE:think Business Program are to address the large volume of waste generated by businesses and to provide no/low-cost solutions and recognition to businesses that meet an established criteria for certification.

RE:think provides assistance and education in five areas:

- Waste prevention and recycling
- Energy efficiency and conservation

- Water quality
- Water conservation
- Purchasing

The RE:think Business Program was modeled after other successful business education/certification programs including Marion County's EARTHwise and the City of Gresham's GREAT Business. RE:think has been adapted to this community where it is endorsed and promoted by the Eugene and Springfield Chambers of Commerce and the Lane County Medical Society.

For more information on the BRING RE:think program, contact Ethan Nelson at 541-682-5224; Carolyn Stein, program director, at 541-746-3023, or visit the Re:think website at [www.bringrecycling.org](http://www.bringrecycling.org).

**Japanese Obon Festival to Feature Dancing and Drumming on July 30**

The Japanese-American Association of Lane County and the City of Eugene present the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Obon and Taiko Drumming Festival, featuring Japanese dancing, taiko drumming, crafts, food and more, from 5 – 9 p.m., July 30, in Alton Baker Park.

The free, annual Obon Festival is also known as the Festival of Lanterns and is held to honor ancestors. It is a time of year for bringing families and friends together for an evening of dancing and celebration.

Under the swaying, colorful Japanese lanterns, attendees will be invited to participate in Japanese circle dances and feast on foods such as yakisoba noodles, which will be sold at the event. There will be entertainment by Eugene Taiko, Shinwa, a taiko group from Veneta, and Oregon and Waka Daiko (a children's drumming group).

This deeply-rooted Japanese celebration begins with taiko drumming and Japanese dancing. Attendees are encouraged to bring a blanket or lawn chair.

For more information, contact Seiko Kikuta at 541-484-4656 or Mike Takahashi at 541-461-5449.