

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

September 16, 2010



City of Eugene

777 Pearl Street, Room 105
Eugene, Oregon 97401-2793
(541) 682-5010
(541) 682-5414 (FAX)
www.eugene-or.gov

IN THIS WEEK'S EDITION

AIRPORT FIRE STATION RIBBON-CUTTING
CITY RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED BUDGET PRESENTATION AWARD FOR 27TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR
NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ON WILLAKENZIE ROAD READY TO PROCEED
SAVE THE DATE FOR THE EUGENE SOLAR AND GREEN HOMES TOUR
SUMMER IN THE CITY – DOWNTOWN: IT'S A WRAP
BANNED BOOKS READ-OUT AND TALK AT EUGENE PUBLIC LIBRARY
MONEY MATTERS AT EUGENE PUBLIC LIBRARY
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FLOCK TO RECREATION'S FREE SUMMER EVENTS

AROUND THE CITY

Airport Fire Station Ribbon-Cutting

A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) station was held today at the Eugene Airport.

The \$3.84 million project was finished on time and under budget. The project was funded through Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) entitlement and discretionary funds with a five percent Airport Fund match of about \$192,000.

The new ARFF station, which was constructed to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) © Silver certification standards, will replace the outdated and undersized Fire Station 12 building. The new 11,600 square-foot building features four ARFF vehicle bays, specialized equipment storage, conference space, and living quarters for four firefighters.



Relocating the station on the north end of the airfield will enable fire personnel to access either runway under the required FAA response time. The old Station 12 building was the only remaining fire station operated by the City of Eugene that lacked separate quarters for both male and female firefighters.

The project was a joint effort between staff from the Eugene Airport, Eugene Fire & EMS Department (EFD), City of Eugene Facilities and Information Services divisions, RS&H, a facility and infrastructure consulting firm, and PIVOT Architecture, a Eugene design firm. RS&H has extensive experience in planning airport fire stations. PIVOT designed several of the new EFD stations.

For more information, contact Eugene Airport Director of Communication and Development Cathryn Stephens at 541-682-5430.

City Receives Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for 27th Consecutive Year

The City of Eugene has once again been awarded the Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the FY10 proposed budget document. Out of more than 1,100 participants in the program, Eugene is one of only five jurisdictions in the U.S. and Canada to receive this award for 27 consecutive years since the program's inception in 1984.

The GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award Program is designed to encourage state and local governments to prepare and issue budget documents of the highest quality. Documents submitted to the Budget Award Program are reviewed by selected members of the GFOA professional staff and by outside reviewers with experience in public sector budgeting. High quality budget documents are essential in ensuring that citizens, elected officials, and other stakeholders, become fully engaged and informed participants in the budget process. Better budget documents contribute to better decision making and enhanced accountability and transparency of local government finances.

City of Eugene finance staff continue their efforts in streamlining and simplifying the City's budget document to make it more user-friendly to the citizens and other parties with an interest in the City's finances. Visit the [GFOA web site](#) for more information about the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award Program, and the [City of Eugene web site](#) for more information about the City's budget. For more information, contact Central Services Director Kristie Hammitt at Kristie.A.Hammitt@ci.eugene.or.us or 541-682-5524.

New Affordable Housing Development on Willakenzie Road Ready to Proceed

Metropolitan Affordable Housing Corporation (Metro) has received low-income housing tax credits and other state funds necessary to proceed with the development of Willakenzie Crossing. Willakenzie Crossing will provide affordable, new rental housing to people earning below 60 percent of the area median income. The City of Eugene selected Metro to develop Willakenzie Crossing on a landbank site through a competitive request for proposals process in 2009. The City of Eugene has committed land, federal HOME funds, and Eugene systems development charge waivers to support the project. The site for Willakenzie Crossing is located on Willakenzie Road just east of Coburg Road, next to the historic Willakenzie Grange Hall. Willakenzie Crossing includes 56 units serving families, individuals, seniors, and persons with developmental disabilities. It also includes a large community center, garden plot, children's play area and ample bike parking. Construction will begin in spring 2011 and will be completed in 2012.



For more information, contact Becky L. Wheeler, Planning and Development Department, at 541-682-5532 or becky.l.wheeler@ci.eugene.or.us.

Save the Date for the Eugene Solar and Green Homes Tour

As part of the largest grassroots solar event, Eugene's annual Solar and Green Homes Tour offers an opportunity to visit nine local homes, both new construction and remodels, that showcase the latest in energy efficiency, renewable energy and green building techniques. Participants can speak with designers, builders, contractors and homeowners to learn first-hand about strategies to lower their utility bills and live more sustainably. This year's tour, co-sponsored by the City of Eugene and the Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB), will feature super energy efficient homes, solar energy systems, ductless heat pumps, rain water harvesting, a green roof, sustainable landscaping and other exciting green building approaches. Workshops on solar hot water and ductless heat pump installations will also be available.



This event is part of the American Solar Energy Society (ASES) National Solar Tour, where more than 160,000 participants will visit innovative buildings in 3,200 communities across the U.S. The tour will be held on Sunday, October 3. Participants will meet at EWEB at 10:30 a.m. for welcoming remarks by ASES Past Chair John Reynolds, Mayor Kitty Piercy and EWEB General Manager Roger Gray. Instructions and tour guides will be provided at this time, and self-guided tours will be held from noon until 4 p.m.

For more information and to preview tour sites, visit www.eugene-or.gov/tour. Pre-registration for this popular event is strongly encouraged at eugenesorlartour@eweb.org. To volunteer for the tour or for more information, contact Jenna Garmon at jenna.r.garmon@ci.eugene.or.us. For more about other tours across Oregon, visit <http://solaroregon.org/workshops-and-education/tours/oregon-green-and-solar-tours-2010>.

Summer in the City – Downtown: It’s a Wrap

The Summer in the City – Downtown series which included a movie, live concerts, a skateboard demonstration, circus acts, participatory art, dance lessons, a fashion show, live theatre and a game of dodge ball, may have seemed like a lot of fun and games, but it also accomplished some serious goals set by the City Council, Cultural Policy Review and the Community Events Program.



The free events spanning nine weeks advanced the City Council’s goals of a city with accessible and thriving culture and recreation, and a community where all people are safe, valued and welcome.

They also aimed to satisfy two goals of the Cultural Policy Review: to build participation in, and audiences for arts and culture in Eugene; and to integrate arts and culture into the fabric of downtown Eugene and other neighborhoods as part of a comprehensive strategy of revitalization.

Beyond those overarching goals, the Community Events Program set specific goals for each event: to bring positive activity downtown, have a positive impact for downtown

businesses, increase residents’ connectivity to the downtown, and be safe.

By the following, most events succeeded:

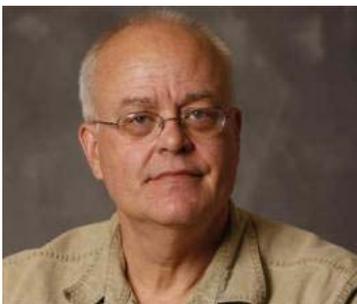
- Number of activities/attractions: in the nine event days, a total of 40 activities/attractions were offered (the goal was 13).
- Involving community organizations: no specific number was set as a goal, but 55 community groups and 25 City of Eugene departments participated in the nine event days.
- Audience participation: the goal was to increase the 2009 attendance of 2,615 by 25 percent; this year 4,110 attended, an increase of 57 percent.
- Goal to reach 50 percent of the targeted audiences at each event: each of the nine event days was specifically programmed to bring a certain age and demographic to downtown Eugene. This minimum goal of 50 percent was met or exceeded at seven of the nine events.
- Safety and security: the general feeling was that having an event footprint fenced, and suggesting a donation of one can of food, or \$1 per adult, had a major impact by making the atmosphere feel safer as compared to last year. This effort raised \$3,852, plus 1,429 cans of food for the Relief Nursery.
- Volunteer help: the nine downtown events were made possible with 173 hours of volunteer help, primarily at the four entrance gates. In addition, the volunteer coordinator, Amber Hampton, an intern from the University of Oregon, volunteered her services - a total of 180 hours.

The Community Events program also programmed 15 Summer in the City - Live Music events (formerly called Summer Concerts in the Parks). These events attracted 6,140 people. By comparison, the 18 live music events presented in 2009 were attended by 5,945 people.

For more information, contact Billie Moser, 541-682-6347.

Banned Books Read-Out and Talk at Eugene Public Library

Join the Eugene Public Library in celebrating free speech during Banned Books Week. Start the week on Saturday, September 25, noon to 2:00 p.m., by dropping in at the Downtown Library’s Rotunda for a Banned Books Read-Out, co-sponsored by the Lane County Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Oregon, and Springfield Public Library. Hear community members reading aloud passages from books that have been challenged or banned, borrow a targeted book, and get a free “I Read Banned Books” pin. (Springfield Public Library will close the week with a Banned Books Read-Out on Saturday, October 2, from 2 – 4 p.m.)



The Eugene Public Library is also honored to host a free talk by Garrett Epps, titled “Dangerous Reading: What Does the Constitution Really Say?” on Saturday, October 2, at 2 p.m., at the Downtown Library. Books will be available for

purchase and signing courtesy of the University of Oregon (UO) Bookstore/Duck Store.

Epps is nationally acclaimed for bringing legal issues to life, pairing a vibrant wit with illustrative stories, clear explanations, and sharp analysis. He is best known locally for his tenure as a professor at the UO Law School and Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics. His books include "Peyote vs. the State: Religious Freedom on Trial," the Oregon Book Award winner "Democracy Reborn: The 14th Amendment and the Fight for Equal Rights in Post-Civil War America," and two novels. He is currently working on a book exploring the surprising questions and concepts that arise from a fresh reading of the U.S. Constitution as an integrated whole.

Formerly a staff writer at The Washington Post, Epps is widely published, including in The New York Times, The New Republic, and The New York Review of Books. He regularly writes commentary for TheAtlantic.com. Epps lives in Washington, D.C., where he is a professor of law at the University of Baltimore.

For more information, contact the Eugene Public Library at 541-682-5450 or www.eugene-or.gov/library.

Money Matters at Eugene Public Library

Learn how to get help with utility bills this winter at Energy Assistance Programs for Seniors, a free presentation at the Downtown Library on Tuesday, September 21, at 1 p.m. Rayna Luvert will share information about eligibility and benefits for local programs offering funds ranging from \$200 to \$350, including Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) Customer Care (water and electric); Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (electric, gas, and oil); the Gas Assistance Program, and Oregon Low-Income Gas Assistance. Luvert is the Energy Assistance Coordinator at the Campbell Center.

Students and parents, alone or together, are invited to a free workshop on Applying for College and Financial Aid on Saturday, September 25, at 3 p.m. at the Downtown Library. This session will provide expert tips on completing a successful college application, writing entrance essays, filling out financial aid forms, and more. Attendees will get the practical advice of professionals from the University of Oregon offices of Admissions, and Student Financial Aid and Scholarships. They will also learn about online resources available free through the Eugene Public Library, including LearningExpress (practice tests and guidance), Foundation Directory Online (scholarships from more than 77,000 sources), and Oregon Career Information System (information about schools and financial aid throughout the U.S.).

For more information, contact the Eugene Public Library at 541-682-5450 or www.eugene-or.gov/library.

Children and Families Flock to Recreation's Free Summer Events

Nearly 16,000 children attended Recreation's free, Fun for All summer playground program this year. The program operated at 12 neighborhood parks, and, at seven of those sites, included a free lunch provided by Food for Lane County. Additionally, a record 3,500 people attended Recreation's free We Are Bethel Celebration in May, and hundreds attended the Whitaker Neighborhood River Festival in July. Dozens more attended other free Recreation events such as Touch a Truck, Starting Block Track and Field events, S-U-M-M-E-R Bingo, Shakespeare in the Park and family fun nights.

Free fall family fun nights got underway at Petersen Barn on First Friday, September 5, with more of these popular events on tap every first Friday through December - at Petersen Barn September 17 and December 17; Sheldon Community Center and Pool, September 24 and October 22, and November 19 at the Amazon Center. For more information, contact Kathy Madison at 541-682-6342.