

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

November 4, 2010



City of Eugene

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AROUND THE CITY

City Kicks off Spencer Butte Summit Planning Discussions

City of Eugene Parks and Open Space staff is in the process of working with the community to develop a summit trail plan for Spencer Butte. One of the most popular hikes in the Ridgeline system, the main summit trail becomes



City of Eugene staff assessing Spencer Butte trail near summit

difficult to locate, highly eroded and unsafe once it leaves the treeline and begins climbing the rocky outcrop at the very top. At this point, users tend to scramble off-trail, unintentionally damaging the rocky outcrop's unique and fragile habitat. Plan goals include improving public safety and protecting this rare habitat type from increasingly heavy recreational impacts.

Planning began with the first of several public meetings held on October 13. About 30 community members came to hear a presentation of the issues, and then broke into small discussion groups to examine potential options for addressing them. Then, on Saturday, October 23, staff members were on hand on the summit to provide tours, discuss the issues, and gather feedback to help guide plan development.

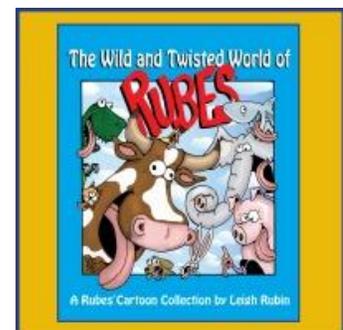
Community members have been invited to take a quick survey and weigh in on options for the site. The survey

can be found on the Spencer Butte Summit Trail Plan page at www.eugene-or.gov/sbsummit. For more information, contact Landscape Architect Philip Richardson, Parks and Open Space Division, at 541-682-4906 or philip.s.richardson@ci.eugene.or.us.

"Rubes" Cartoonist Leigh Rubin at Eugene Public Library

Syndicated cartoonist Leigh Rubin will present a free, funny, illustrated talk about his one-panel comic, "Rubes," on Tuesday, Nov. 9, 6 p.m., at the Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Sometimes described as a "sit-down comedian," Rubin finds inspiration in everyday life, from dogs, cats, and cows, to kids, religion, and quirky people in general. His new book, which will be available for purchase and signing at the talk, is a 25th anniversary collection titled "The Wild and Twisted World of Rubes." At the event, Rubin will also hold a free, door-prize drawing for five, full-color, signed, open-edition prints of his work.



"Rubes" is published in *The Register-Guard* and 400 newspapers worldwide. Rubin's local appearance is co-sponsored by *The Register-Guard*. For more information, please contact the Eugene Public Library at 541-682-5450 or www.eugene-or.gov/library.

Bags, Coats and Boots to Beat the Cold Weather

What started out as a single officer providing sleeping bags for people without homes, has in its third year blossomed to become a more widespread effort. The goal: to provide as many sleeping bags, shoes/boots, and coats for the homeless, as possible as temperatures start to dip. The sleeping bags will be distributed by White Bird Medical Clinic and the coats will be provided to Sponsors.

The effort this year is spearheaded by the outreach creator, Officer Randy Ellis, who has been joined by Officer Jimmie McBride to organize an effort within the Eugene Police Department, Central Lane 9-1-1, and Springfield Police Department for donations. Other interested individuals, such as an ultra-marathon group have also begun to donate. So far, \$1,220 in cash has been collected, along with material goods donations including a good supply of cold weather items such as:

- 45 sleeping bags
- 16 pairs of new boots
- 150 pairs of new socks
- 80 pairs of new gloves
- 12 new fleece blankets
- 10 new tarps
- 30 new stocking caps
- 40 jackets for Sponsors

Donations can still be dropped off at the West University Public Safety Station at 791 East 13th Avenue. For more information, please contact Melinda McLaughlin at 541-682-5124.

Senior Program Screens Households for Energy Subsidies

The City's Senior Services program helps those age 60 and older access funds to help pay utility bills. This week, Senior Services began screening applicants to determine if they meet age and income eligibility requirements for energy assistance programs. Those who qualify may apply for assistance from a number of programs, including the Eugene Water & Electric Board's Customer Care (ECC), which provides up to \$200 a month to help households with water and electric charges.



The Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) helps covers electric and natural gas charges. LIEAP is available to customers of Blachley Lane, Central Lincoln Public Utility District, Emerald Public Utility District, Lane Electric, Northwest Natural, PacifiCorp, and Springfield Utility Board. Other subsidies are available through the Gas Assistance Program and Oregon Low-Income Gas Assistance. Yet another program provides weatherization for homes through Lane County and furnace referrals through the Housing Authority and Community Services Agency (HACSA).

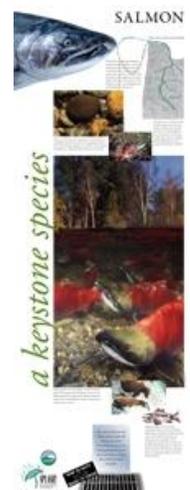
For additional information, contact Energy Assistance Coordinator Rayna Luvert at 541-682-6394.

Stormwater Newsletter Covers Issues from Raindrop to River

Tips for protecting delayed summer projects, mitigating flood hazards, and rounding up leaves for healthy yards and safer streets are just a few of the stories in the upcoming *Stormwater Connections* newsletter. The fall issue will be in the mail to Eugene residents in the next two weeks.

Weather predictions for the winter are calling for a wetter, colder season. Anyone in the midst of a landscape or remodel project this summer may have been short-changed by the skimpy summer season. Protecting bare soils will help prevent muddy messes and on-street flooding.

As seasonal wind gusts and rain swirl around broad-leaf trees, leaf-plugged storm drains can cause localized flooding. Since leaves don't always fall in sync with the annual leaf collection program pickup schedule, timely and safe placement of leaves is essential for safe passage for pedestrians and bicyclists. There is an even better way to manage leaves by putting them to work as mulch around garden beds, trees and plants. Nutrient-rich leaves are known for enriching soil, an added health benefit for plants.



In recent years, localized flooding has not been an issue in Eugene. Still, evidence from other communities indicates that it isn't always possible to predict when the next flood will occur. Residents should know if their property is located in a special flood hazard area and what discounts are available on flood insurance premiums. An extensive article — including a map, floodplain information services, and preparedness tips — answers many frequently asked flood-related questions.

Kids (and adults) will find some interesting water facts along with suggestions on how to care for the water in the environment on Lily's Page. This issue draws attention to the problems that dirt and mud cause for the survival of salmon eggs. And, as a way to promote stormwater awareness, free educational posters are available for display in public areas and businesses.

Articles in *Stormwater Connections* typically address seasonal or current issues and provide one page of interest for younger residents. The semi-annual newsletter is produced by the stormwater management program to increase awareness of surface water and natural resource issues in our community. Copies of the newsletter are available in the City Manager's Office. For more information, or additional copies of the newsletter, contact Public Information Specialist Kathy Eva at 541-682-2739.