

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

December 8, 2011



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Energy Conservation Still Best Way to Meet Needs of Future

City of Eugene staff recently participated on an advisory committee that helped Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) plan for Eugene's energy needs over the next 20 years. About every five years, EWEB undergoes an intensive planning process to guide decisions about how the utility will meet the community's future electricity needs.

To create the Integrated Energy Resource Plan (IERP), EWEB engaged an advisory committee of EWEB customers and community representatives, including the City of Eugene. The IERP Advisory Committee met over the course of six months and reviewed technical, economic, and social equity data focusing on developing a recommendation that would meet EWEB's triple bottom line objectives. This effort resulted in a set of strategies that were tested under many different scenarios and met the projected demand for power at the highest value to EWEB customers.

Past electricity resource plans have prioritized energy conservation as the preferred resource strategy. With this guidance and in partnership with its customers, EWEB's conservation programs save enough energy to offset about 14 percent of Eugene's annual electricity usage.



The most recent planning effort confirmed that energy conservation is still the most cost-effective and least risky way to meet future electricity needs. It also set a new milestone for EWEB and the community: meet all projected growth in demand for electricity for the next 20 years with new conservation. Put another way, if EWEB is successful in meeting this target, it will not have to contract for additional power supplies.

Everyone knows that energy conservation encourages more efficient use of electricity resources. From a cost/benefit perspective, there is a whole lot more 'bang for the buck' investing in conservation than energy-producing technologies (even renewable energy). And, to top it off, conservation keeps money in the local economy with associated jobs and lower utility bills for customers.

EWEB is proud to present this win-win-win strategy as the cornerstone of the new energy resource plan, which will be available for public review and comment in early December. For more information, please visit the EWEB energy plan website at www.eweb.org/2011ierp/ or contact Ethan Nelson at ethan.a.nelson@ci.eugene.or.us or 541-682-5224.

Police Squad Car Maintenance Team Featured in Publication

Eugene Police Department's (EPD) Squad Car Maintenance Team is featured in a recently published National Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) booklet, [Volunteers in Police Service Add Value While Budgets Decrease](#). To help agencies think creatively about potential volunteer roles, this latest VIPS publication highlights innovative ways agencies around the country are engaging citizens and increasing their reach in the community. EPD has a number of volunteer programs that add incredible value to the organization and free up time for officers and detectives to work proactively to reduce crime.

EPD's volunteer teams are greatly valued by the department. For instance:

- Implemented in 2004, the **Squad Car Maintenance Team** saves EPD \$54,000 annually. Fifteen retirees inventory and restock patrol vehicle trunk supplies, perform minor maintenance and repairs, wash vehicles inside and out and shuttle vehicles needing service to the City 's Fleet Shop. Prior to creating the team, paid mechanics had to shuttle the vehicles.
- Among other duties, the **Seniors on Patrol Team** volunteers issue warnings and citations to violators of signed disabled parking spaces. In 2010, the team issued 650 warnings and 335 citations (\$190/citation).
- A **Police Range Recycling Team** was created in July 2010. Volunteers assist with a variety of sorting, recycling and other support duties at Short Mountain Range. To date, 2,025 pounds of brass and aluminum collected at the range have been taken to Schnitzer Steel and generated \$3,453 for the City of Eugene.
- Since April 2010, volunteers have been serving subpoenas to victims and witnesses. Prior to the formation of the **Subpoena Service Team**, most of the more than 1,000 subpoenas served annually were processed by a paid contractor. In the team's first 12 months of operation, the volunteers served 1,447 subpoenas at a savings of \$41,963. The contractor was paid \$29 per subpoena.
- Based on requests for service from EPD officers and detectives, **Image Retrieval Team** volunteers retrieve surveillance videos (relating to property crimes) from businesses and lodge them into evidence. In 2010, the volunteers retrieved 154 videos.
- A **Cold Case Squad** was formed in 2010, with the goal of improving the capacity of the Eugene Police Department to investigate and solve cold cases through a team of volunteers. Three law enforcement retirees investigate cold cases and a retired teacher provides administrative support to the team.
- Together with employees, volunteers participate in **focused crime prevention operations targeted at property crimes hot spot areas**. Through this partnership with volunteers, department resources are expanded. EPD is able to reach more citizens and provide them with important crime prevention information and services.

The EPD has openings on the Squad Car Maintenance Team, Seniors on Patrol Team and Subpoena Service Team. Those interested should contact Carrie Chouinard at 541-682-5355 or carrie.f.chouinard@ci.eugene.or.us or go to www.eugene.or.gov/policevolunteers for more information.

Record Original Poetry at Eugene Public Library

All poets are invited to come to the Eugene Public Library to record original poetry for a new online archive. Oregon Poetic Voices is traveling around the state collecting poetry readings for all to enjoy. To record poetry, drop in to the Downtown Library on Thursday, Dec. 15, between 6:00 and 7:30 p.m., or Saturday, Dec. 17, between 3:00 and 4:30 p.m.

The Oregon Poetic Voices Project, funded by the Library Services and Technology Act 2010, builds on three major existing collections of recorded Oregon poetry: two decades of sound archives of the Fishtrap Writers' Gathering in Willamette County, collected by Rich Wandschneider; 15 years of weekly interviews conducted by Barbara LaMorticella and Walt Curtis at KBOO radio; and recorded archives at Sandra Williams' long-running Mountain Writers Project.



Among them, these archives contain recordings of almost every significant Oregon poet of the last quarter of the 20th Century, along with a good selection of recent innovators and creative spirits in the increasingly diverse world of Oregon poetry.

To learn more about the poetry archive, and to listen to already-collected poems, visit oregonpoeticvoices.org. For more information about recording original poetry at the Eugene Public Library, please call 541-682-5450 or visit www.eugene-or.gov/library.

Partnerships Key to Newest Acquisition in Ridgeline Park System

This week, the Parks and Open Space Division acquired a 193-acre site called “South Eugene Meadows” for the Ridgeline Park system. With this addition, the Ridgeline Park system has grown to approximately 2,000 acres. The acquisition was possible because of partnerships with the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) and the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), and because the landowner made a significant donation to make the transaction possible. The funding package for the acquisition included a \$750,000 grant from OWEB, an \$886,000 grant from BPA, \$713,000 in City bond measure funds, and a \$790,000 donation from the landowner.

South Eugene Meadows is located to the west of Spencer Butte Park and contains a beautiful mixture of oak woodland, oak savanna, and upland prairie habitats, which have been identified by multiple conservation organizations as priority habitats to conserve in the Willamette Valley. Furthermore, the site contains magnificent views of Spencer Butte. In the future, the Ridgeline Trail will be extended through the site, providing additional opportunities for the community to recreate and experience nature close to home. The site’s strategic location in the Ridgeline helps fulfill the community’s vision, as identified in the Rivers to Ridges Vision and Action Plan, of a continuous habitat and recreational corridor from Fern Ridge Reservoir to Buford Park. The City’s grant applications were strongly supported by organizations in the Rivers to Ridges Partnership (of which the City is one of 14 partner organizations) and many community groups.



193-acre South Eugene Meadows site offers magnificent views of Spencer Butte.

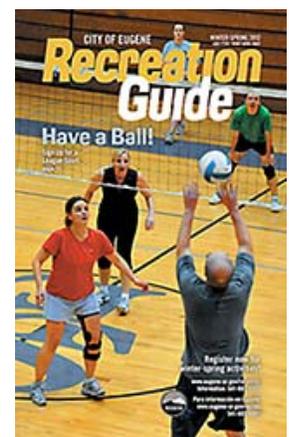
In addition to the acquisition funds, the City was able to secure three years of “stabilization funding” from the BPA. This funding, which totals \$188,175, will allow the Parks and Open Space Division to maintain the site for the next three years. In a time of limited City funding for maintaining parks and natural areas, this stabilization funding from BPA is particularly important.

For more information, contact Natural Resources Manager Eric Wold at 541-682-4842 or eric.n.wold@ci.eugene.or.us.

New Winter/Spring Recreation Guide Offers Hundreds of Things to Do

The City of Eugene’s Winter/Spring Recreation Guide offers opportunities to stay healthy, entertained and informed from January through May. The 72-page virtual recreation guide is now available online at www.eugene-or.gov/recenroll. Those on the mailing list will receive paper copies next week. In addition, copies of the guide are available for pick-up at City community centers, pools, libraries and many other public locations. Registration is now underway for most activities.

The cover of the new guide features an adult volleyball league. Every year, there are more than 100,000 participants in the five adult sport leagues offered by the City of Eugene Recreation Department, including volleyball, basketball, ultimate, softball, and soccer. In addition to league sports, the Winter/Spring Recreation Guide contains hundreds of events, classes, activities, social opportunities, and health and wellness programs for all ages and abilities. The City also offers a variety of spring break camps for children in kindergarten through age 14.



Many activities are free and scholarships are available. For more information, call Kathy Madison at 541-682-6342.

Police Commission to Host Public Forum on Downtown Public Safety Zone

On Wednesday, Dec. 14, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., the Police Commission will host a public forum on the Downtown Public Safety Zone in the McNutt Room at City Hall. The zone will sunset in April 2012, unless the City Council takes action to extend the deadline.

The Downtown Public Safety Zone (DPSZ) was created in 2008, and created a 20-block area in downtown Eugene where officers could request a 90-day or one-year civil exclusion for persons arrested for certain offenses. The ordinance establishing the safety zone was amended and extended in December 2010. Information on the use of the DPSZ and a copy of the ordinance will be available Friday, Dec. 9, or at <http://Eugene-or.gov/policecommission>, and will be available at the forum.

The forum will begin with a brief presentation, and the remaining time will be used to provide up to three minutes per person for participants who wish to speak. The length of time for comments may be shortened, depending upon the number of people who wish to speak.

All comments received on December 14, and received in writing by January 10, 2012, will be compiled and presented to the City Council for their consideration in late January. A City Council public hearing on this topic is scheduled for February 21, 2012.

Community members who would like to provide written comments or who have questions can send them via email to Police Commission Analyst Carter Hawley at Carter.R.Hawley@ci.eugene.or.us or call 541-682-5852.

Special Town Hall to Be Held on Budget

State Senator Floyd Prozanski and Representative Paul Holvey will hold a special Eugene Town Hall on the budget situation with special guest, Representative Peter Buckley. The meeting will be hosted by City Councilor George Brown and will take place on Tuesday, Dec. 13, at 6:30 p.m., at Washington Park Community Center, 2025 Washington Street.

For more information, contact Intergovernmental Relations Manager Brenda Wilson at 541-682-8441 or brenda.s.wilson@ci.eugene.or.us.

'Working City' Has New Look, New Host, New Episodes

It has a new format and a new host, but "Working City" continues to tell stories about the many services provided by the City of Eugene and present those stories to the community through television and online video. "Working City" is produced by Lane Council of Governments' (LCOG) Metro TV working under contract to the City of Eugene.



Mandy Rose narrates a new "Working City" episode about traffic safety features.

The monthly series debuted in October 2004, and over the years it has aired more than 160 stories ranging from "Holiday Fire Safety," to "Summer in the City." Recently, the program was revamped to offer a more modern look and shorter segments that are easier to watch on YouTube, Facebook and other online services.

The latest "Working City" piece, titled "Get There Safely," explains some of the newest traffic safety features such as green bicycle lanes, shared bike-auto lanes, and stutter-flash pedestrian crossing signals. This segment is narrated by Mandy Rose, the new host featured in the updated format.

Metro TV cable channel 21 is one of the dedicated channels provided to the City under Comcast's public rights-of-way use agreements. The "Working City" series is funded by the City's Telecommunications Fund, dedicated to communications technology projects of community benefit.

In addition to being available online, the episodes continue to be broadcast on Comcast cable channel 21 on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings and before the start of each regular Eugene City Council meeting on Monday evenings.

To view the episodes online, go to the City home page, www.eugene-or.gov, and click on the YouTube link to go to the City's YouTube channel. Episodes can also be seen via the City's Facebook site, or online at www.metrotv.org. For more information, contact Jan Bohman, the City's community relations director, at 541-682-5587.