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## AROUND THE CITY

### **Building Inspection Recognized for Innovative Field Mobility Vans**

As part of the Oregon Building Officials Association annual conference, the City of Eugene Building Inspection staff were recognized for developing field mobility vans that provide on-site service to construction projects throughout the city. On behalf of the City of Eugene, Assistant Building Official Mark Whitmill received the *Innovative Use of Technology Award* at the conference in Bend, earlier this summer.



Over the last several years, the Building Inspection program has been developing new and innovative ways to administer building codes, both in the office and in the field. The field mobility vans provide a mobile workspace for building inspectors. As demonstrated in a council work session earlier this year, the Ford Transit Connect van has room for a work space, large monitor for viewing plans, copy/scanner and printer, all organized around a desk and the full computing power of the traditional office. Currently, the City has five vans at work in the field. Harnessing the power of technology has not only created significant on-going savings

to help keep permit fees low, it has also added to inspectors' efficiency, allowing each inspector up to an additional hour a day in the field.

Located within the Building and Permit Services Division of the Planning and Development Department, the Building Inspection program preserves and improves the public's safety, health, welfare and environment by inspecting building and remodeling projects in the community. For more information on the field mobility vans, contact the Building Inspection Supervisor Kyle Richardson at 541-682-8338 or [kyle.richardson@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:kyle.richardson@ci.eugene.or.us).

### **Grant to Advance Paralympic Sports Club**

The Adaptive Recreation Program is one of just five organizations nationwide to receive a Strategic Planning Consulting (SPC) grant through the U.S. Olympic Committee's Paralympic Technical Assistance Program. The grant will provide 10 - 20 hours of consultation with Deloitte Consulting, the world's largest management consulting firm in strategy and operations, human capital and technology services. Deloitte Consultants will help with the organization and strategic planning needs for Adaptive Recreation's Paralympic Sports Club (PSC). This grant is the first step in a series of supports from the PSC that leads to assistance with grant writing and potential grant funding for future programming.



In announcing the award, Susan Rossi, U.S. Paralympics community and veterans program manager said, "This program was very popular and highly competitive. We are excited about this offering and are very hopeful that the assistance that Deloitte provides will allow you to grow in your ability to meet the needs of athletes with disabilities in your area."

Begun just six months ago, Adaptive Recreation's Paralympic Sports Club is a community-based sports development program that involves children and adults with physical and visual disabilities in sports and physical activity. For more information, contact Patty Prather at 541-682-5311.

### **SNAP Is Happening**

Neighborhood Services has opened the third Strategic Neighborhood Assessment and Planning (SNAP) cycle for new applications. Both City of Eugene-recognized neighborhood associations, and community-based organizations, are eligible to participate in a SNAP process. Community-based groups can initiate a SNAP, but must have the support and collaboration of their neighborhood association. The process takes three to six months to complete, depending on the scope of the project and capacity of neighborhood leadership. Once a SNAP is successfully completed, the neighborhood is eligible for up to \$5,000 in grant funds to implement actions from their plan.

The SNAP process offers focused staff assistance to neighborhood and community groups to assess needs and develop a plan that identifies and outlines goals, strategies and actions to address them. The SNAP process engages a broad community of neighborhood stakeholders, builds partnerships and collaborations with the City and other organizations, and provides direction for neighborhood associations and community groups.

Past SNAP projects have ranged from general goal-setting, prioritization, outreach and work planning for a neighborhood association to more specific projects such as community engagement concerning urbanization in the Santa Clara and River Road neighborhoods, Latino business development, and urban agriculture. A proposed project can be located in part of a neighborhood or can span multiple neighborhoods.

The updated SNAP guide and application are now available on the Neighborhood Services website: <http://www.eugene-or.gov/index.aspx?nid=233>. A pre-application consultation with Neighborhood Services staff is required by Aug. 24, and applications are due on Sept. 7. The selected neighborhood(s) will be notified by Sept. 21, and work will begin in October. For more information, contact SNAP leads Rene Kane at 541-682-6243 or [rene.c.kane@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:rene.c.kane@ci.eugene.or.us) or Lorna Flormoe at [lorna.r.flormoe@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:lorna.r.flormoe@ci.eugene.or.us) or 541-682-5670, in Neighborhood Services, City Manager's Office.

### **Controlled Ecological Burns Help Native Fire-Dependent Species Thrive**

This fall, the Rivers to Ridges partners will be undertaking controlled ecological burns at several West Eugene Wetlands sites. The City of Eugene's Natural Resources team, with the assistance of the Eugene Fire and EMS Department (EFD), has planned a small, controlled ecological burn at the City's Willow Corner site. The burn planned on this six-acre City-owned land, at the corner of West 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Bertelsen Road, is part of a much larger, controlled ecological burn planned in collaboration with the West Eugene Wetland partner organizations, including The Nature Conservancy and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.



The Rivers to Ridges Partnership (formerly known as the West Eugene Wetlands Partnership) relies on controlled ecological burning as a restoration tool to protect valuable biological diversity in prairie and savanna ecosystems. Removal of standing dead vegetation also benefits the community by decreasing the chances of uncontrolled wildfires at the wildland-urban interface. City staff works hard to make sure the community is protected from potential negative impacts of fire. EFD and the City's Natural Resources staff carefully assess weather conditions and burn only on days when the wind will blow smoke away from residential areas. The Lane Regional Air Protection Agency reviews the controlled burn plans each year, issuing a permit and conditions under which burns may proceed. City crews mow fuel breaks around the perimeter of each burn unit to prevent fire from traveling outside the planned burn area. Finally, controlled ecological burns are managed by experienced and highly trained fire crews, including EFD, who are working from detailed burn plans. These plans provide extensive prescriptions describing how to conduct the burn to provide maximum protection for the community.

Additional controlled ecological burns may be performed by Rivers to Ridges partner agencies on lands elsewhere in the wetlands, including on lands owned by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, The Nature Conservancy, U.S.

Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Friends of Buford Park and Mt. Pisgah. Together these efforts will result in the enhancement and protection of many of the important natural areas enjoyed by the community. For short-notice burn information, go to the "Willamette Valley Prescribed Fire" Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Willamette-Valley-Prescribed-Fire/222587147840368> or contact Natural Area Restoration Supervisor Trevor Taylor at [trevor.h.taylor@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:trevor.h.taylor@ci.eugene.or.us) or 541-682-4888.



### **Hult Center Entrance Changes for Lobby Lighting Construction**

The Hult Center Lobby will be closed through late September due to construction and installation of new lighting. The ticket and administration offices remain open. The new lighting will provide energy savings and increased cost efficiencies as well as greatly improved illumination. Years of planning the lobby lighting project will culminate in capturing the excitement of the original vision of a vibrant community gathering place.

To access the ticket and administration offices, patrons are being directed to use the Jacobs Gallery entrance via the stairs and wheelchair-accessible ramp access on the east side of the building nearest the Hilton Hotel. The entrances on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> avenues and on the Concourse (level 3 of the parking garage) are closed during this time; signage at those entrances will direct patrons to the Jacobs Gallery entrance. For more information, please contact Libby Tower at 541-682-8380.

### **New Eugene Park Watch Program Aims to Make Parks Safer**

This past spring, an interdepartmental staff team met to strategize on practical ways to reduce crime in City parks and recreational facilities, especially during the summer months when visitation to these areas is highest. From this meeting, the new *Eugene Park Watch* program was born.

*Eugene Park Watch* is an exciting collaboration between the community, the police, Eugene Parks and Open Space staff, Recreation and Cultural Services staff, and other City departments. The program empowers City staff and the community to become active in reducing crime and the fear of crime through participation. *Eugene Park Watch* is designed to increase safety and reduce crime in Eugene's parks, recreation facilities, and surrounding neighborhoods through these efforts:

- Online reporting from the City of Eugene website and sharing of information regarding problems in parks.
- Visible Eugene Police Department (EPD) patrols with sworn and non-sworn assets.
- Increased presence of City staff in areas needing attention.
- Public events where pro-social activities are needed to stimulate positive behavior in parks.
- Increased confidence and use of Eugene's parks and recreation facilities through continuous improvement.

During the first three months of its existence, the Eugene Park Watch pilot program has focused its efforts on sending police and other resources to specific areas with both high public use and a history of illicit activities. Among them are the Willamette River corridor, the Amazon Creek corridor and several neighborhood parks. Vehicle and bike patrols have noticeably increased in these parks and staff has reported a stronger sense of security compared to past summers. For more information on the program, please contact Park Operations Manager Eric Wold at 541-682-4842 or Police Lieutenant Doug Mozan at 541-682-5164.

### **Eugene Reuses: Used Merchandise Creates Jobs and Reduces Waste**

A recent report reviewing the economic impact of solid waste related industries and businesses in Eugene and Lane County, revealed that the used merchandise industry contributes \$16.1 million to Eugene's economy, and \$26.1 million to Lane County's. The study also noted that Eugene stands out for the strength of its used merchandise industry which includes used books, appliances, furniture, antiques, and clothes.

According to the study, Eugene employs five times the number of people in the used merchandise industry as the rest of Oregon. Nationally, compared to the 648 counties for which data are available, Lane County has the second highest percent of total employment in the used merchandise industry, second only to St. Clair County, Alabama.

While the study did not investigate why this sector of Eugene's economy is so robust, it noted that there may be cultural factors fueling the used goods market or a community preference for environmentally friendly goods. A [recent study](#) conducted as part of the City's Community Climate and Energy Action Plan found a growing awareness and support for more sustainable consumption in Eugene. Results from the study of local attitudes indicate an emerging demand for more sustainable



consumption options and a desire to support local businesses that can provide them.

The full report is available [online](#) and was prepared for the City of Eugene's Waste Prevention Program as a part of the City's solid waste system review. It was a cooperative effort between the University of Oregon Economics Department and the Community Service Center's University Center for Economic Development. The City of Eugene's Waste Prevention Program supports the elimination of waste from its source through education, outreach, and policy guidance. For more information, contact [Ethan Nelson](#) at 541-682-5224 or [Babe O'Sullivan](#) at 541-682-5017.

### **Join EPD for Grand Opening of 300 Country Club Road Facility**

The Eugene Police Department, together with the community it serves, will join for the official grand opening of the new police headquarters and an exciting new chapter in the department's history of service.

Members of the public are invited to an open house reception Saturday, Aug. 18, between 9:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m., that will feature special guided tours throughout the facility, an opportunity to speak with one of the artists of the unique and deeply symbolic public art features, quizzes with prizes for youth about the property and an opportunity to take photos with an officer and police vehicle.

The guided tours will be available from 9:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. There will be an inaugural first flag-raising during the Grand Opening Ceremony at 12:30 p.m., when the United States and Oregon flags are honored for the first time at the location.



Because the department needs to maintain front counter service, the Eugene Police Department will be reserving the public parking in front of the building for police business and parking for the open house will be available next door at 260 Country Club Road thanks to Siuslaw Bank. Shuttles will also be available to assist in traveling between the parking lots.

For more information, contact Public Information Coordinator Jenna McCulley at 541-682-5197.