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IN THIS EDITION

SHARED-USE PATH SYSTEM REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETED
GRANT BOOSTS BICYCLE SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM
NATIONAL BESTSELLER FRANCINE PROSE AT EUGENE PUBLIC LIBRARY
HOLIDAY BAZAAR AT CAMPBELL CENTER ON NOVEMBER 3

AROUND THE CITY

Shared-Use Path System Repairs and Improvements Substantially Completed

Work is substantially completed on a series of projects designed to repair and improve Eugene's shared-use path system.

The **North Bank Path** between DeFazio Bridge and Leisure Lane has been reopened and repair work is completed except for the installation of light poles. The path was closed for about six weeks as Kipco Inc., replaced slippery aggregate and root-heaved path segments, widened narrow sections of path to the 12-foot-standard width, installed rail along new vertical edges and updated old path lighting to new lights that meet current park standards. The construction costs to repair and upgrade the 1,800-foot path section were approximately \$410,000, paid for primarily with federal grant funding.

Grass is sprouting up alongside the **Fern Ridge Path** between Chambers and Arthur streets. This section of off-street path was realigned to move it away from Amazon Creek to address slope stability issues. Due to clay soils that expand and contract seasonally, the path was constructed using fiber-reinforced concrete. The path was also widened to 12 feet, new path lighting was installed, the Arthur/Garfield bridge underpass was fitted with a retaining wall to stabilize a creeping slope, pedestrian railing was installed at both ends of the path and a bike counter is being installed to report path usage and to help in future bicycle facility planning. The contractor, Wildish Construction, completed the 1,500-foot project in about 15 weeks. Construction costs were approximately \$385,000, paid for primarily with federal grant funding.



Pedestrians use the new Rasor Park connector between River Road and the newly repaired West Bank Path.

The **West Bank Path** from Greenway Bridge to Stephens Lane has also been completed after a six-week closure. Brown Contracting resurfaced the existing 3,200-foot-long asphalt path with concrete, and a number of benches were added along the path. The primary source of funding for the estimated \$425,000 project was the 2008 voter-approved bond measure to fix streets and bike paths.

Meanwhile, the City received state grant funding to improve connections at three locations on the Ruth Bascom Riverbank Path and one location on the Amazon Path.

On the riverbank system, the **Merry Lane connector** is a concrete surface approximately 430 feet long and includes a bridge crossing a Willamette River side channel. The bridge installation is scheduled for later this week, weather permitting, with the connection planned to be opened by early November. The **Rasor Park connector** is 700 feet long

and constructed of concrete. **Fir Lane connector** improvements include the extension of existing sidewalk and the construction of a roadside shoulder.

On **30th Avenue west of Hilyard Street**, a 200-foot-long concrete connector provides easier access to the Amazon Path.

General contractor 2G Construction has been working on the four connector projects since mid-July. Construction costs are approximately \$345,000, with funding coming from a state Urban Trails grant plus a City match from transportation systems development charges (SDCs).

For more information about these and other transportation improvement projects, contact Acting City Engineer Matt Rodrigues at 541-682-6036.

Grant Boosts Bicycle Safety Education Program

With the support of a grant from the Jane Higdon Foundation, the City of Eugene, in partnership with the Eugene Safe Routes to School Program, and Eugene and Bethel School districts, will be able to expand the Eugene Bicycle Safety Education program. For more than a decade, many local students have received 10 hours of bike safety education at their school through the Portland-based Bicycle Transportation Alliance “Safe Routes for Kids” program. See a video of one of the classes at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ACMQXYlormo>.

A \$22,000 grant from the Jane Higdon Foundation to Recreation’s River House Outdoor Program will pay for local instructors to teach the program, greatly expanding its reach this year and next to more than 1,000 students. Bikes owned by the 4J and Bethel School districts will be used for the program. Unfortunately, the 40 bikes reported stolen on Monday comprised one of those fleets.

The Jane Higdon Memorial Fund is dedicated to the dreams and aspirations of Jane Higdon, who was tragically killed in 2006 when she was struck by a truck while on a bicycle training ride on a rural road. For more information, contact Colette Ramirez-Maddock at 541-682-5329.



National Bestseller Francine Prose at Eugene Public Library

The Downtown Eugene Public Library will host a talk by national bestselling writer Francine Prose on Sunday, Nov. 4, at 2 p.m. Admission is free.



Francine Prose is the celebrated author of 16 books of fiction. Her novel, “A Changed Man,” won the Dayton Literary Peace Prize, and another novel, “Blue Angel,” was a finalist for the National Book Award in Fiction.

Prose’s most recent works of nonfiction include the highly acclaimed “Anne Frank: The Book, the Life, the Afterlife” and the New York Times bestseller, “Reading like a Writer.” A former president of PEN American Center, Prose lives in New York City.

Books will be available for sale and signing courtesy of the University of Oregon Duck Store. For more information, please contact the Eugene Public Library at 541-682-5450 or www.eugene-or.gov/library

Holiday Bazaar at Campbell Center on November 3

Campbell Community Center’s annual Holiday Bazaar is a great kickoff to the holiday season. Items for sale include hand-made crafts, quilts, wooden items, pies and baked goods, as well as books. There will be a silent auction, raffles, preserves, and Campbell’s famous sweet, hot mustard. Breakfast snacks and lunch will also be served.

The sale is a fundraiser for the City’s Adult and Senior Program. It is open to the public and will be held on Nov. 3, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Campbell Center, 155 High Street. Admission is free. It’s a wonderful holiday shopping location with great gifts for all! For information, contact Diane Sconce at 541-682-5318.

