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EUGENE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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AROUND THE CITY

Social Service Agencies Benefit from Generous Giving

After an amazing outpouring of support, thousands of items were donated to community service agencies last Thursday, Nov. 29, to help the homeless community in the area stay warm this winter.



Eugene Police Officers, organized by Officer Randy Ellis and bolstered by donations from many City departments, along with community contributions, were overwhelmed by the generosity of the community. The West University Substation was bursting at the seams with donations of clothing, shoes, socks, blankets, sleeping bags, and personal items. Many of the items were donated while some were purchased through the substantial monetary donations received. When the dust settled, more than \$7,000 was raised, including a hefty matching donation from a community member. The funds will be used for the purchase of items to supplement the many donations.

Agencies including Sponsors, Whitebird, The Eugene Mission, Helping Hands and First Christian Church came to the West University Station to receive the mountain of supplies that have been collected, including more than 100 sleeping bags, bags of jeans, dozens of warm boots and socks. All of the agencies noted an increase in requests for services so far this season and extended their gratitude to those who contributed to help a vulnerable population of the community during these extra difficult cold weather months.

For additional information, Officer Ellis can be reached at Randy.R.Ellis@ci.eugene.or.us

City of Eugene's Greenhouse Gas Assessment Used in Oregon Study

City of Eugene staff recently partnered with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to better understand the accuracy of City estimates of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with the purchase of goods and services. Last year, the City used the Economic Input-Output Life Cycle Assessment tool developed by Carnegie Mellon University to estimate the upstream emissions associated with 2010 purchases as part of an update to the City's [Internal Greenhouse Gas Inventory](#). DEQ ran the City's results through its own consumption-based model and the results concurred. The analysis lends credence to the reliability of both models and reaffirms the City's previous findings.

According to DEQ, "Until recently, [GHG] inventories have typically not quantified emissions associated with purchased goods and services. Recent research – including groundbreaking work by the City of Eugene – suggest that these emissions may in fact well exceed emissions associated with municipal use of energy and power, the historic focus of most municipal operations inventories." In the City inventory, the estimated upstream emissions associated with purchases was 26,300 MT CO₂e (metric tons carbon dioxide equivalent), more than the emissions from consumption of electricity, natural gas, and transportation fuel which totaled 16,700 MT CO₂e.

DEQ's [report](#) of the analysis serves as a resource to leaders in the GHG inventory field and may encourage and facilitate other Oregon agencies in selecting a path for conducting their own embodied emission inventories. The City's inventory informs ongoing work to increase more sustainable purchasing and reduce the organization's carbon footprint as directed in the Eugene Community Climate and Energy Action Plan. For more information, contact Purchasing Analyst Heather Nelson at heather.k.nelson@ci.eugene.or.us or 541-682-5056.

Kid-Size "Nutcracker" at Eugene Public Library

The Downtown Eugene Public Library will host a performance of The Nutcracker: Short & Suite, the Eugene Youth Ballet's child-size version of the seasonal classic, on Wednesday, Dec. 12, at 4 p.m. Admission is free.

This annual show is perfect for kids and family; everyone is welcome. Travel the globe with these dancers and dream of sugarplums all night!

For more information, please contact the Eugene Public Library at 541-682-8316 or www.eugene-or.gov/library.



Employees Plant Trees in Honor of Eugene's Birthday

To honor Eugene's 150th birthday, City of Eugene employees wanted to give back to the community with a legacy project of lasting value. On a recent rain-soaked Saturday, more than 60 City employees and their families joined the Eugene Park Stewards to scalp sod, dig holes, plant and mulch 150 native trees along the Willamette River near Maurie Jacobs Park. It was an interdepartmental, intergenerational, hard-working group. All 150 trees were expertly planted in a few hours...

during an unexpected break in the rain just before it really poured!



City employee volunteers get tree-planting instructions.

Parks and Open Space staff and the Eugene Park Stewards did a great job of organizing the volunteer work party, as they do with similar projects throughout the year in the area's parks and natural areas.

This was a fitting project for City employees to contribute to in honor of the community's 150th birthday. The effort is part of restoration plans for the Willamette River riparian area and over time will transform the high-maintenance, low-use, grassy area into a native, wooded area that is lower maintenance and a healthier, more natural river's edge. Once the trees have developed a canopy, under-story shrubs and wildflowers will be planted to complete the conversion.

The project will improve habitat for salmon and other species which call the Willamette River corridor their home. It will be fun to watch the transformation over time especially for the employees' children who will get to enjoy those trees for many years to come!

For more information, contact Community Relations Director Jan Bohman at 541-682-5587.

Solarize Eugene Program a Success

Solarize Eugene helped 60 households install renewable energy systems in 2012, and increased awareness of the value of solar energy and energy efficiency. Solarize Eugene was a project of The Resource Innovation Group (TRIG) funded by a Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) Greenpower Grant. The City of Eugene partnered with TRIG and EWEB by helping to promote the program, streamlining the permitting process and offering a discount on permit fees for the first 20 projects in the door.

Solarize combined a bulk purchase program with extensive education and marketing to make solar energy more accessible and affordable. A total of 325 people attended the eight Solarize workshops, with 262 households ultimately signing up to participate. By reducing the cost and complexity of solar installations, Solarize Eugene helped residents overcome the traditional barriers to going solar.

Solarize Eugene also helped support the local economy. Instead of the traditional Solarize model of awarding the equipment installation contract to one company, Solarize Eugene gave preference to collaboration among installers, resulting in a coalition of five local solar companies winning the contract. As a result, the economic benefits derived from installing nearly \$2 million worth of equipment flowed to multiple local businesses. In addition, most of the solar panels installed were produced by SolarWorld in Oregon. Solarize Eugene also spurred local job creation.

"There is a lot of talk about the need for creation of local green jobs, but Solarize Eugene is actually creating these jobs – including at least one new position at my solar installation business," says Newt Loken of Solar Assist, a participating contractor.



EWEB expects at least 35 more customers to move forward with a solar project when the 2013 [solar electric incentive funds](#) become available in January. To learn more about EWEB's renewable energy and energy efficiency programs, call 541-685-7000 or visit www.eweb.org/energy.

To learn more about solar permitting, please contact Jenna Garmon at 541-682-5541 or jenna.r.garmon@ci.eugene.or.us.

More than 215 Acres Benefit from Partnerships in West Eugene Wetlands

November marks the close of another successful season of restoration and habitat improvement in the West Eugene Wetlands. In 2012, more than 1,400 pounds of 60 different native seed varieties were collected or grown and distributed on over 215 acres of wild land in the west Eugene area.

The City has been partnering with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) for more than a decade to provide locally sourced, native seed and plants for prairie and wetland restorations in the Eugene area. Together, the partners leverage each other's strengths to more effectively achieve restoration goals:

- The City coordinates and manages the seed production program, including contracts with nurseries that provide large amounts of native seed, and supervises seasonal staff;
- BLM funds seed production at a federal facility that has native plant propagation expertise and provides additional funding for seed collection and supplies;
- TNC shares the costs of propagation and assists with seed collection and technical expertise.



City's Coyote Prairie restoration site in the West Eugene Wetlands

Restoring diverse wetland plant communities is important not only for its landscape-scale effects, such as reducing erosion and providing flood control, but also to support an abundance of wildlife, including meadowlarks, short-eared owls, long-toed salamanders, and rare butterflies. In fact, the local program has been so successful that others now hope to replicate it on a Willamette Valley-wide scale.

For more information, contact Wetland Ecologist Diane Steeck at diane.m.steck@ci.eugene.or.us or 541-682-4927.

Cultural Services Offers "Survival Skills for Artists" Class

Many artists spend hours learning the craft of their art, but are never taught how to navigate the business side of art. Art Survival Skills is a course geared toward visual artists who are seeking the tools to move their art into the professional art arena. The course will cover many of the practical tools and business skills that artists need to navigate the art market and expose their work to the public.

The 10-week course is offered by the City of Eugene's Cultural Services Division in cooperation with Lane Community College and will cover topics such as how to document artwork; basic Photoshop skills; designing and making business cards, postcards and other print materials; blogs, websites and online stores; approaching and working with galleries; entering and participating in art fairs and festivals, and considerations for operating a professional art practice. Course instructor, Dan Schmitt, is a successful ceramic artist living in Eugene who exhibits his work regionally and nationally in several prominent museum collections, including the National Museum of American Art and the Luce Center at the Smithsonian. Schmitt has been an adjunct assistant professor of ceramics and design at the University of Oregon and currently teaches at Lane Community College.

The class will begin meeting on Jan. 8, 2013, in The Studio at the Hult Center and continue to meet on Tuesday evenings from 6 - 9 p.m. Tuition is \$125/person and registration is available through the Hult Center's Ticket Office (Monday - Friday 12 - 5 p.m. and Saturday, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.). For more information, contact Public Art Manager Isaac Marquez at 541-682-2057 or isaac.r.marquez@ci.eugene.or.us

Waste Prevention and Green Building Program Busts Trash

This year, the City's Waste Prevention and Green Building (WPGB) program was recognized as the Government Agency "Trashbuster" for 2012 by Lane County's Waste Management program.



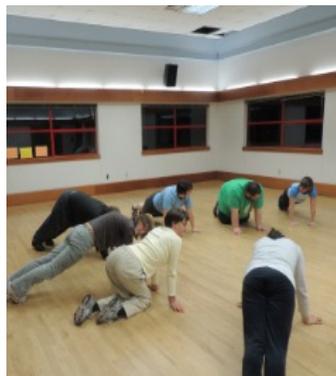
According to the County, "This program has demonstrated consistent leadership and commitment to waste reduction, reuse, and prevention in the operation of their public services. The City's Green Building Incentive program promotes waste reduction in private construction projects by providing permit fee reductions, technical assistance, priority review and inspections, and publicity to construction projects that meet a series of waste reduction standards; so far 20 projects have met these rigorous standards. The City's Love Food Not Waste commercial compost program has 95 participants, and has diverted over 1,000 tons of food waste in its first year.

The City's leadership in this year's Track Town '12 sustainability effort carried our local event to the national level, piloting the first ever certification for multi-day event category. The Olympic Track and Field Trials exceeded its goal by diverting over 78 percent of discard from the landfill and back into the economy. The City's long time cooperation with nonprofits, and commitment to composting, raises all boats for the sustainability of our community—creating access, resources, education and enthusiasm for turning garbage in to gardens that feed our community—schools, individuals, and local businesses alike."

For more information, contact Stephanie Scafa at stephanie.scafa@ci.eugene.or.us or 541-682-5652.

Blog Sees Hilyard as "Enhancing the Quality of Life"

"They work hard, laugh, and cheer each other on. Every Monday at 4.30, the motto is 'Fitness for all' at Hilyard Community Center...." So starts a blog post by Jana "Rabea" Stueckemann, who wrote about the City's Adaptive Recreation Program for a class at the University of Oregon. She says many people with disabilities have found a safe haven in Eugene, which she calls, "a community that not only tolerates, but demands help for people with disabilities." And, she notes, "...the Adaptive Recreation Program is a role model on a nationwide scale" that offers more than 2,500 activities annually.



In her blog post, Stueckemann explains that for the majority of the 800 individuals with cognitive, emotional, mental, social, and physical disabilities it serves, the Adaptive Recreation Program at the Hilyard Center is the only social outlet. "The center functions as a second home, where instructors and patrons form equal members of a big family. Participants visit voluntarily, not only to engage in fitness and health classes but to fight loneliness."

She recalls her conversation with Richard Miesen. "He is a developmentally delayed individual who visits the center several times a week. Besides many friends he has also found his girlfriend at Hilyard. It is the only place where he can feel good about himself," she writes. At the end of the blog, Stueckemann writes again about the fitness class. "As the class winds down...there is laughing, clapping and cheering everywhere. 'Did you smile?' the instructor asks. The participants agree and embrace each other."

Read Stueckemann's entire [blog post](#). For more information, contact Andy Fernandez at 541-682-5311.

2012 Eugene Sunday Streets Final Report Available Online

The 2012 Eugene Sunday Streets final report is now [available online](#). An estimated 3,000 participants attended the 2012 event, an increase of 1,000 over the first Eugene Sunday Streets event in 2011. The City of Eugene Transportation Planning Team raised over \$16,000 in business sponsorships, individual donations, vendor fees, and in-kind services and products to support the 2012 event. In 2013, the Transportation Planning team will host two Sunday Streets events. A grant will be used to support a Sunday Streets event in the Bethel neighborhood, and a funding model similar to the one used in 2012 will be used to fund a second event.



For more information, visit www.eugenesundaystreets.org or contact Transportation Options Coordinator Lindsay Selser at sundaystreets@ci.eugene.or.us or 541-682-5094.