



City of Eugene
125 East 8th Avenue, 2nd Floor
Eugene, Oregon 97401
(541) 682-5010
(541) 682-5414 (FAX)
www.eugene-or.gov

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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Future Affordable Housing Development Named Finalist for Greenpower Grant

New affordable homes, planned for a former City landbank site, could receive a \$100,000 grant from Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) to make them as energy efficient as possible. Housing and Community Services Agency of Lane County and the Neighborhood Economic Development Organization are partnering to develop 20 new energy-efficient, single-family homes that will be available to first-time home buyers of modest means. The development is located on Hatton Avenue in northwest Eugene, a landbank site the City transferred to HACSA in 2005 to support the development of affordable housing.

The Greenpower Grant supports renewable energy usage in the community. If awarded, it would fund the installation of renewable solar hot water systems in each of the 20 homes, helping first-time homeowners save money by reducing their out-of-pocket expenses on utilities.

Greenpower ballots are mailed out to Greenpower customers in early April, and EWEB will announce the winner of the grant at Eugene's Earth Day event on April 20. For information about the grant or the Greenpower program, go to <http://www.eweb.org/greenpower/grants> or contact Becky Wheeler at 541-682-5532.



Example of home using solar hot water system.

Bring a Bag Campaign Kickoff

On Oct. 22, 2012, the Eugene City Council approved a Single-Use Carryout Bag Ordinance, which will take effect on May 1, 2013. The ordinance encourages use of reusable bags by banning single-use plastic bags at the point of sale in all retail establishments within Eugene city limits. The City is conducting a public education and awareness campaign that focuses on raising awareness about reusing bags, helping residents remember to use reusable bags when shopping, and connecting residents with resources for free and reduced-price bags

There are a few simple steps shoppers can follow to keep reusable bags clean and to keep themselves and their families safe from germs. Remember to wash reusable grocery bags often:

- Cloth reusable bags should be washed in a washing machine using laundry detergent and dried in the dryer or air-dried.
- Plastic-lined reusable bags should be wiped using hot water and soap, and air-dried.

- Cloth and plastic-lined reusable bags should be completely dry before being stored.

Always put raw meats into a disposable plastic bag before putting them in a reusable bag. When using reusable bags, keep meats, fresh produce, and ready-to-eat foods separated from other food products. Additionally, consumers should clean any reusable bags used for carrying food before using for other purposes such as carrying books or gym clothes.

Tips to help remember to use bags include:

- Always start a shopping list with “Bring Bags.”
- Keep a collapsible bag in a purse, backpack, or briefcase.
- Keep bags in the car.

City staff will hold two business information sessions for retailers to learn about the new law on Thursday, April 11, 2013. The noon session will take place from 12 – 1 p.m. at Oregon Community Credit Union located at 2880 Chad Drive. The evening session will take place from 5:30 – 7 p.m. in the Bascom Room of the Eugene Public Library (first floor, 100 West 10th Avenue).

To learn more about the ordinance, and to view a listing of locations that offer free or reduced price bags, please visit www.eugene-or.gov/plasticbags or contact [Stephanie Scafa](mailto:Stephanie.Scafa@ci.eugene.or.us) at 541-682-5652.

Extended Closure of Olive Street to Start April 1 for Safety Reasons

Olive Street between 12th and 13th avenues will be closed for approximately six months starting Monday, April 1, to protect motorists, cyclists and pedestrians from heavy equipment and construction activity on a major housing project being constructed by Capstone Collegiate Communities.



The closure includes sidewalks on both sides of Olive Street between 12th and 13th avenues as well as the sidewalks on the north side of 13th Avenue between Charnelton and Willamette and the sidewalk on the west side of Willamette next to the building site. The closed areas will be fenced off to keep motorists, cyclists and pedestrians a safe distance from active work zones. Last fall, the West 12th Alley between Olive and Willamette streets was closed, and that access route will remain closed until a new accessway for pedestrians and cyclists is opened. Also this spring, one lane on the north side of 13th Avenue between Charnelton and Olive streets will be closed to allow trucks to off-load materials and equipment for the construction of the second phase of the Capstone project on the west side of Olive Street.

Safety is the main reason for closing the rights-of-way during construction. Large cranes will be moving heavy loads overhead, including across Olive Street. Large trucks, concrete pumpers and other heavy equipment will be parked in, or crossing, Olive Street and off-loading materials on the north side of 13th Avenue. Building walls and other structures will be built near the closed sidewalks, and pedestrians and cyclists could be injured by falling equipment or construction materials. As an indication of the amount of truck traffic, the Capstone contractor estimates an average of 60 trucks will enter the work zone each day, and as many as 100 trucks per day may enter the site on a busy day.

Under the terms of a City-approved traffic control plan, advanced signage will be installed to advise travelers to use alternate routes. Traffic conditions will be monitored, and traffic control will be modified if necessary. The City’s traffic engineer has worked with Lane Transit District staff to develop alternate routes for buses that currently use the Olive Street corridor.

In preparation for the closure, staff developed informational signage that the contractor will be installing. Key stakeholders were contacted, and the project web site at www.eugene-or.gov/CapstoneClosures has been updated with a question-and-answer fact sheet and other materials.

For more information, contact Traffic Engineer Tom Larsen at 541-682-4959 or Tom.C.Larsen@ci.eugene.or.us.

Register for Popular Softball Leagues

Each year, thousands of men and women have fun and get exercise playing on City sport leagues, including more than 3,300 individuals who play softball every summer. Registration for the summer men's, women's and co-ed softball teams will be held April 2 - 5 at the Athletics Office in Amazon Center, 2700 Hilyard Street. Registration is by team only.

To register, teams must complete a league classification sheet, fill out a roster with player's signatures and take the documents, along with the total fee, to the Athletics Office. Documents and fee information are available online at www.eugene-or.gov/athletics, or at the Athletics Office.

Registration for returning teams is April 2, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., and April 3, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. New teams may register on a space-available basis on April 4 and 5, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Play gets underway on May 19 for the 10-week summer softball season. For more information, contact [Dave Battaglia](mailto:dave.battaglia@eugene-or.gov) at 541-682-5409.



Learn to Use Technology at Eugene Public Library

In a world of ever-expanding choices in information and entertainment technology, the Eugene Public Library provides user-friendly assistance to community members with new devices and interests. Admission to these two-hour classes is free.



Discover expert techniques for "Successful Internet Searching" at a new class on Thursday, April 18, at 1:30 p.m. Participants will learn professional methods to find information on the web – and save time.

The Library will present "eBooks: How to Choose an eReader or Tablet" on Sunday, April 14, at 2:30 p.m. This workshop helps participants figure out which device is right for them, with different types on hand to test-drive.

Bring a Nook to "eBooks for Nook" on Monday, April 15, at 5:30 p.m., to learn how to download free eBooks from the Eugene Public Library. Similar classes for new owners of other devices are "iPad for Beginners" on Sunday, April 7, at 2:30 p.m. or Monday, April 22, at 5:30 p.m., and "eBooks for Kindle" on Monday, April 1, at 5:30 p.m.

On Saturday, April 20, at 10 a.m., learn how to "Store and Share Digital Photos." Beginners get a user-friendly "Intro to Computers" on Sunday, April 21, at 1:30 p.m.

For more information, contact the Eugene Public Library at 541-682-5450 or www.eugene-or.gov/library.

April 1 Opening for First New Disc Golf Course in Eugene in 25 Years

A new 18-hole disc golf course in Alton Baker Park will open to the public on April 1, 25 years after the last disc golf course opened in Westmoreland Park.



The course was intentionally designed in the underused and overgrown areas of the park, and stresses the importance of the safety of other park users. As part of his management contract, Andy Rich has taken over the City's responsibilities for mowing and maintenance of the course's 14 acres and will also pay the City a monthly fee.

The Alton Baker course is also the City's first pay-to-play disc golf course. The fee is \$3 daily and memberships sell for \$40-\$60 and allow open play for a year and other benefits.

It's serendipitous that Andy Rich is contract manager of the new course. He was inspired to take up the sport when, at age 10, he first saw disc golf being played at Westmoreland.

Six years later, he was Oregon Disc Golf Champion. As the manager of the Alton Baker course, Rich will no doubt help dozens of other kids, and adults, start playing the sport.

The Alton Baker course will soon also feature a pro shop, snack bar and food cart. Later this summer, Rich says players will be able to call or go online to reserve tee times. For more information, call Recreation's Athletics Manager Dave Battaglia at 541-682-5409.