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EUGENE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

May 2, 2013

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AROUND THE CITY

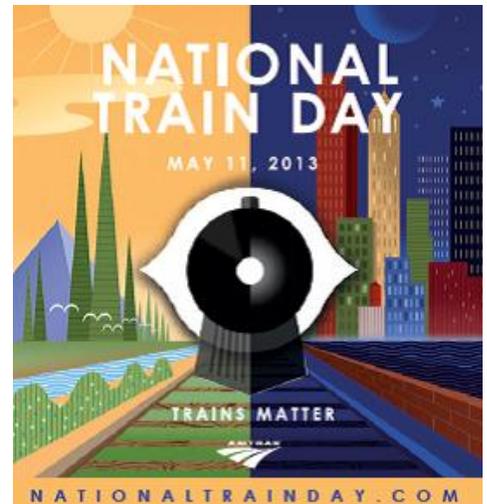
Join Mayor Piercy at Eugene's National Train Day

On May 11, 2013, from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Eugene will join with more than 200 communities throughout the country as it celebrates the importance of trains to the town. This year the theme of these community events will be “trains matter.”

Eugene will host a fun and festive day beginning with an opening ceremony featuring Mayor Kitty Piercy. Mayor Piercy will welcome the community and provide a short update on the exciting work she has helped to facilitate which will bring an increased number of train routes to the Pacific Northwest Corridor and provide ease in passenger commuting between Eugene and Portland.

The event will feature local vendors, model train displays, entertainment and tourism information along with a special event area for children hosted by Disney's Chuggington Kids Depot.

For more information about the event, contact Amtrak's Rose Blackson at BlacksonR@Amtrak.com.



A Joyful Noise at Hult Center

Can you sing with your yawn voice? Over six-hundred elementary and middle school students visited the Hult Center for the Performing Arts on April 22 for the Oregon Children's Choral Festival (OCCF) and learned how to do just that and other vocal and performance techniques to create a joyful noise. Now in its 27th year, the OCCF brings choristers from around the region excited and ready to fill the Silva Concert Hall with song. This fabulous event not only provides the kids an opportunity to perform, but to learn from each other and work with a guest clinician.



From “Wow!” to “This is the best day ever!”, kids truly enjoy this invaluable opportunity and are having so much fun, they don't even realize they are honing their creative and critical thinking skills, modeling awareness and self-control, and upping their performance game – all in one day.

After all their hard work, the kids get to sit back and enjoy a guest performance. This year's performance was given by Oregon Children's Choir young women's a cappella group, Synergy.

As one teacher said, "We truly appreciated the amazing experience of singing on the Hult Center stage – nothing can compare!" The Hult Center truly appreciates the budding performing artists and the schools and organizations that worked to bring them here. There is no substitute for participating in and experiencing live performing arts!

For more information, contact Theresa Sizemore at 541-682-5242.

Summer Rides Provide Opportunity for Veterans

The second season of Eugene Adaptive Recreation's free bike rides for all veterans including those who are injured, ill or wounded got underway in April. Every Tuesday evening, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., through Sept. 3, vets can join with other vets on rides from Maurie Jacobs Park on the north end of Fir Lane, near the soccer field. As part of the program, Adaptive Recreation provides adapted bikes to those who need them.

The rides are one of several recreational activities presented by Adaptive Recreation to help injured soldiers adjust to civilian life. Many participants say recreating with others who have shared their combat experience is very helpful to them.

In addition to the bike rides, Adaptive Recreation is offering several family raft trips to veterans, and their family and friends this summer, in addition to a sailing class, which includes certification by the American Sailing Association.

For more information about Adaptive Recreation's veterans' activities, call Patty Prather at 541-682-5311.



Teens Help Veterans, too

Teens in Adapted Recreation's Rockin' Rec Night have partnered with seven South Eugene High School students to collect items and create care packages for local veterans in preparation for Memorial Day. Donations for the care packages will be accepted through Friday, May 17, at the Hilyard, Campbell or Sheldon community centers. Bring one or more of the items on the list below. (No perishable items, please.)

- Brain puzzle books (crossword puzzles, Sodoku, etc.)
- Playing cards
- Project kits (model cars, woodworking, etc.)
- Sketch pads and colored pencils
- Journals
- Jigsaw puzzles
- Seeds for flowers, herbs, or vegetables, and pots



For more information, call Shayle Wigger at 541-682-5311.

Two Eugene Neighborhoods Finalists for Neighborhood of the Year

Two Eugene neighborhood groups – Harlow Neighbors and Santa Clara/River Road Outreach and Learning (SCRROL) are finalists for the annual national Neighborhood of the Year Award given by Neighborhoods USA (NUSA).



Harlow Neighbors submitted an application based on the work of Feed Hope, a joint project between the neighborhood association, area churches and Food for Lane County. Their work served the needs of many elementary school children who, although qualified to receive free or subsidized breakfast and lunches during the school year, had limited access to healthy daytime meals during school breaks. With over 300 volunteers, Feed Hope coordinated donations, and packaged and distributed 4,500 healthy, nutritious meals to children in the Harlow neighborhood.

SCRROL's joint project between the Santa Clara and River Road community organizations addresses complex issues of service delivery in the River Road and Santa Clara areas. With a patchwork of city and county lands, the area is served by numerous special service districts that provide water, streetlights, parks and recreation services, and police and fire protection. The SCRROL group conducted a series of community forums, living room

conversations, and community social events to educate and assess residents' priorities for neighborhood improvement, reaching an estimated 700 neighbors.

Each group will present a project to be judged at the upcoming NUSA conference held in Minneapolis from May 22 - 25.

Eugene will host the Neighborhoods USA conference in 2014 and plans are underway for three days full of informative workshops, exciting tours and engaging speakers. For more information about the NUSA Neighborhood of the Year competition entries, or the 2014 Neighborhoods USA conference, please contact Rene Kane, Neighborhood Services, at 541-682-6243 or rene.c.kane@ci.eugene.or.us.