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EUGENE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

April 24, 2014

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AROUND THE CITY

Wildflower Celebration at Awbrey Park

For more than five years, the dedicated Friends of Awbrey Park have been focused on restoring the riparian area along Spring Creek that flows through this 4 ½-acre neighborhood park in Santa Clara. Over this short period of time, their first-Saturday-of-the-month volunteer work parties have had a dramatic effect. What was once completely covered by a wall of blackberry and choked out by English ivy is now a thriving creek and natural area with native wildflowers in full bloom.



Volunteers at Awbrey Park

This Sunday, the Friends of Awbrey Park will host a family-friendly Wildflower Celebration from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring a picnic lunch and see for yourself what volunteers can accomplish together! Enjoy native wildflower tours and treasure hunt, s'mores over the campfire, horseshoes, disc golf and live music by the North Eugene High School Ukulele Orchestra.

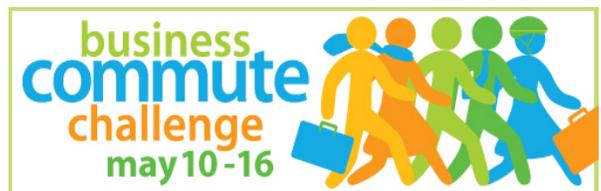
Eugene Park Stewards builds community through hands-on volunteerism in Eugene's parks and open space system. Currently there are more than 30 adoption groups and growing.

For more information about this Sunday's celebration at Awbrey Park or about the Eugene Park Stewards program, contact West Region Volunteer Coordinator Lorna Baldwin at 541-682-4845 or lorna.j.baldwin@ci.eugene.or.us.

2014 Business Commute Challenge is Right around the Corner

The Business Commute Challenge is a weeklong friendly competition among local area businesses that encourages employees to walk, bike, bus, carpool, or telework for their daily commute as an alternative to driving alone. Participants have the opportunity to win prizes, have fun, promote teamwork, and help reduce carbon emissions all at the same time.

The 2014 BCC will be held May 10-16. The event is coordinated by Point2point and sponsored by City of Eugene, Lane Transit District, City of Springfield, Arriving By Bike™, Paul's Bicycle Way of Life, Clif Bar, and KEZI 9 News.



Last year, more than 2,100 people, representing 172 business teams participated in the Business Commute Challenge! In just one week, the BCC participants reduced more than 69,030 drive-alone miles, and reduced more than 70,600 pounds of carbon dioxide.

Visit the website at www.commutechallenge.org for a list of activities and to sign up to participate. For more information, contact Jordan Bailey, Sunday Streets coordinator at Public Works Engineering, 541-501-0390.

Willamette High School Receives National Award

Willamette High School (WHS) is one of 48 schools across the country to receive recognition as a 2014 [National Green Ribbon School](#).

The honor, announced this week on Earth Day (April 22) by the U.S. Department of Education, is for the school's efforts to improve the health and wellness of its students and staff, reduce environmental impacts, and provide environmental and sustainability education. The recognition award is part of a larger U.S. Department of Education effort to identify and disseminate knowledge about practices that are proven to result in improved student engagement, higher academic achievement and graduation rates, and workforce preparedness, as well as a government wide goal of increasing energy independence and economic security.



Some of the activities which earned WHS the honor include: collection of 2,000+ pounds of recycled material each week, use of paper towels that are EPA-certified 85-percent post-consumer waste, participation in the City of Eugene's Love Food Not Waste commercial compost program, an annual community Recycle Round-Up, use of raised garden beds and hydroponic garden systems that serve as skills training for students, a student-led recycling effort incorporated into instructional program, and much more.

The City of Eugene partners with Bethel School District to integrate investments in buildings, curricula, educational programming, and on-going facility operations.

For more information, contact Waste Prevention and Green Building Analyst [Stephanie Scafa](#), 541-682-5652.

Dangers of Drunk Driving Emphasized in Staged Crash

On April 15, personnel from Eugene Springfield Fire, Eugene Police, Lane County Sheriff's Office, Life Flight air ambulance, and Churchill High School staff and students participated in the "Every 15 Minutes Program." This emotionally charged program offers real-life experience without the real-life risks and is designed to dramatically instill teenagers with the potentially dangerous consequences of drinking alcohol and texting while driving. This powerful program challenges students to think about drinking, texting while driving, personal safety, and the responsibility of making mature decisions when lives are involved. The event involved a staged motor vehicle accident in the parking lot of Churchill High School involving six students with realistic make-up to simulate injuries as the result of a crash. In this simulation one student dies in the accident and four students are extricated from the vehicle by firefighters. Three of the extricated students are loaded into medic units and leave the scene code 3 with lights and sirens. The fourth extricated student is loaded into the Life Flight helicopter. Another student is given a field sobriety test, arrested and taken away in a police car. The one student who was pronounced "dead" at the scene is placed in a body bag and leaves in a funeral car. The entire reenactment is performed in front of hundreds of students. The next day students gathered for an assembly. The focus of the assembly stresses the dangers of texting while driving, and that the decision to consume alcohol can affect many more people than just the one who drinks. This very emotional and heart-wrenching event illustrates to students the potentially dangerous consequences of their use of alcohol and texting while driving, regardless of how casual they believe their use is.

For more information about the "Every 15 Minutes Program", contact Deputy Chief of Shift Operations Randy DeWitt at 541-682-7147 or Randy.C.DeWitt@ci.eugene.or.us.

Novelist Karen Joy Fowler at Eugene Public Library

Bestselling writer Karen Joy Fowler, winner of the 2014 PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction, will speak at the Downtown Eugene Public Library on Friday, May 2, at 6 p.m. Admission is free.



The PEN/Faulkner Award is America's largest peer-juried award for fiction, with a prize of \$15,000. Past winners include Sherman Alexie, E.L. Doctorow, Ann Patchett, Annie Proulx, Philip Roth, and John Updike. Fowler was honored for her latest novel, "We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves," which explores family dynamics, animal rights, and activism through the story of a woman whose researcher father raised a chimpanzee at home as her "sister." Writing for the *New York Times*, Barbara Kingsolver praises the work as "so readably juicy and surreptitiously smart, it deserves all the attention it can get."

Fowler is the author of six previous novels, including the New York Times bestseller "The Jane Austen Book Club," and three short story collections. Her novel "Sister Noon" was a finalist for the 2002 PEN/Faulkner Award for fiction. Her short story collection "Black Glass" won the World Fantasy Award in 1999, and her collection "What I Didn't See" won the World Fantasy Award in 2011.

Fowler's visit is part of the third annual Northwest Women Writers Symposium sponsored by UO Center for the Study of Women in Society in cooperation with Eugene Public Library. The 2014 theme is "Family, Animal, Story." Free events, including panel discussions and writing workshops, will be held at the University of Oregon and the Downtown Eugene Public Library.

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



Adult and Senior Classes Offered at Campbell Center

Fraud Prevention for Seniors, Quality Medical Tourism, and Understanding Reverse Mortgages are the topics of three upcoming presentations at Campbell Community Center. They are typical of the kind of presentations held almost weekly at Campbell. Each presentation provides information that is useful to adults and seniors – from serious health and financial issues, to fun topics such as Turning Trash to Treasure, Culture Explorations or how to "Can The Clutter." By far the most popular presentation for the Baby Boomer crowd, and the one that is repeated monthly, is "So, You're Going on Medicare."

From learning how to use a smart phone to birding at home, the presentations provide useful information for free to help adults maintain their health, independence, social connections, support networks and quality of life. For more information about this and other programs and activities at Campbell Center, contact Recreation Manager Diane Sconce at 541-682-5318.