



EUGENE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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IN THIS EDITION

PUBLIC WORKS PRESERVES HERITAGE TREES ON HIGH STREET
BESTSELLING AUTHOR J.A. JANCE AT EUGENE PUBLIC LIBRARY
OREGON DRAGON BOAT RACE ON JULY 19 TO BENEFIT VETERANS
VARIETY OF CITY PROJECTS BENEFIT PEOPLE WHO WALK AND BIKE
EUGENE SUNDAY STREETS DOWNTOWN EXPECTED TO DRAW THOUSANDS TO ANNUAL EVENT
"WE CAN!" MAKE THE WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS SUSTAINABLE

AROUND THE CITY

Public Works Preserves Heritage Trees on High Street

Recently, Public Works discovered that several heritage-class giant sequoia trees (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) at 1550 High Street had significantly damaged the sidewalk, creating a violation of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards for safe walking surfaces. The giant sequoias had exceeded their growing space, creating a multitude of challenges for repairing the walkway to ADA standards. In consideration of the complexity of repairs required, the trees were posted with a notice of potential removal that allowed the public to comment.

The community's response to the potential removal was overwhelmingly in favor of saving the trees, which led staff to meet the stakeholders onsite to discuss possible solutions and explain the City's process when tree root and sidewalk conflicts occur. After receiving this public input, Public Works staff designed a creative walkway that preserves the trees by bridging over the existing roots, while at the same time extending the elevated portions of the walkway further to the south to meet ADA requirements for safe walking surfaces. This innovative solution should provide for safe, walkable sidewalks for at least the next 10 years.

Though a creative design worked for this particular location, not all conflicts between street trees and sidewalks are able to be resolved in this way, due in part to the surrounding environment, available right-of-way, and a number of other key factors. This situation highlights the challenges that the City sometimes faces in trying to meet the dual goals of a vibrant street tree canopy and safe, walkable sidewalks for all community members.

The sidewalk removal and installation was performed by the Public Works surface maintenance team. For more information, call Urban Forestry Supervisor Chris Girard at 541-682-4824.

Bestselling Author J. A. Jance at Eugene Public Library

New York Times bestselling author, J. A. Jance, is visiting Eugene on tour with her just-released book, "Remains of Innocence." Jance's "Joanna Brady" series, at over 15 novels, has earned an enormous and devoted following of suspense fans who eagerly anticipate each new installment. The series features a tenacious Cochise County, Arizona, sheriff and her search for justice in the sparse, beautiful American Southwest.



(Top) Forms are placed to bridge tree roots. (Above) Finished sidewalk has ADA-compliant slope.

In "Remains of Innocence," Sheriff Joanna Brady is confronted with two deaths, 2,500 miles apart, a mysterious fortune discovered hidden in a reclusive woman's home, and the pressing need to figure out how these events are connected – before more people are murdered.



J. A. Jance is the bestselling author of the J. P. Beaumont series, the Joanna Brady series, the Ali Reynolds series, and four interrelated thrillers about the Walker Family. More than 20 million copies of her books are in print. Born in South Dakota and brought up in Bisbee, Arizona, Jance lives in Seattle, Washington, and Tucson, Arizona. Books will be available for sale and signing courtesy of Barnes and Noble.

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

Oregon Dragon Boat Race on July 19 to Benefit Veterans

Twelve teams are ready to compete in the first dragon boat race in Lane County and, in so doing, support local wounded veterans in their recovery. Adaptive Recreation Services has teamed up with local organizations to present the Heroes-2-



Oregon Dragon Boat Paddle Challenge on Saturday, July 19, on Dexter Lake from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Each of the 18-member teams will paddle a 40-foot dragon boat on a prescribed 250-meter course out and back in three heats; rankings will be determined by time. The event is free for spectators.

Proceeds will benefit local wounded veterans, helping them regain an active lifestyle by attending the [National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic](#) where they can not only strengthen their bodies, but also overcome and improve their overall being and sense of self-worth.

Eugene, Cascades and Coast Sports Commission, and the Emerald City Dragon Boat Club, partnered with Adaptive Recreation to bring the sport of dragon boating to Lane County, while fundraising for a great cause. Guarantee RV Super Centers is sponsoring the race. For more information, contact Andy Fernandez at 541-682-6306.

Variety of City Projects Benefit People Who Walk and Bike

People who walk and bike in Eugene will find the going easier and safer, thanks to a series of projects being constructed this summer.

Construction is underway on a pedestrian and bicycle improvement omnibus project funded by the 2012 voter-approved bond measure to fix city streets and improve transportation facilities. Already completed is a bicycle ramp at 24th Place to improve access from Amazon Parkway north of 24th Place. Other projects scheduled to be completed this summer include curb ramps, a pedestrian island and pedestrian-activated flashing lights (the 10th of this type of crossing in Eugene) on Green Acres Road between Applewood Lane and Delta Oaks Drive, a ramp to connect the sidewalk to the parking lot at Amazon Community Center, widened passageways for bicycles and pedestrians at two of the gated entrances to the Lane County Fairgrounds, and a new pedestrian-activated red light on 30th Avenue near University Street. Total cost of the five projects is approximately \$240,000. Wildish Construction is the general contractor.



Last week, a crew from Wildish finished concrete work on a new pedestrian crossing island on Green Acres Road.

Meanwhile, nearly 500 sidewalk access ramps are being constructed or improved to meet the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Public Works Department's pavement preservation program (PPP) is installing 474 new or upgraded ramps in conjunction with major street repair projects this year. The program is also constructing 551 feet of new sidewalk infill and accessible pedestrian signal upgrades at four intersections. Funds for PPP projects come primarily from the City's street bond measure and the local motor vehicle fuel tax.

The Public Works Maintenance Division is also retrofitting 19 ramps on six intersections. The primary source of funding for these ramp repairs comes from Eugene's Community Development Block Grant program.

For more information about the bond-funded projects or access ramp improvements, contact Project Manager Katie Marwitz at 541-501-0380 or PPP Manager Jenifer Willer at 541-501-0376.

Eugene Sunday Streets Downtown Expected to Draw Thousands to Annual Event

This summer marks the fourth year of Eugene Sunday Streets, a free event that focuses on building community and promoting active lifestyles. On two Sundays -- July 20 and September 21 -- from noon to 4 p.m., people will be able to walk, roll, bike, and dance in the streets along a car-free route. The first event will be held along 5th Avenue and at the new WJ Skatepark + Urban Plaza in Washington Jefferson Park, and the second event will be held in the Harlow neighborhood.

Sunday Streets Downtown is presented by the City of Eugene with support from the Summer in the City program and Point2Point Solutions at Lane Transit District. The routes in Washington Jefferson Park, and 5th Avenue near Pearl Street, will feature activity centers. The activity center at Washington Jefferson Park will include a skateboard clinic at the new skatepark, roller derby lessons and free scrimmage, learn-to-bike lessons, and a pedal-powered music stage featuring the Chumlo Bros., Soulicious, Calongo and Olive DelSol. The City of Eugene, in partnership with the FireMed program, will be giving away over 350 free helmets, sized toddler to adult. The Helmet Giveaway begins at 2 p.m. at the WJ Activity Center.



Participants enjoy car-free activities on Hilyard Street in 2012

The 5th Avenue at Pearl Block Party, a partnership with a number of local businesses, will feature yard games by Playground Sports, Bike Shop Expo, and live musical performances by the North Eugene Ukulele Orchestra.

With no designated start or finish, the two-way, car-free route can be enjoyed by foot, bicycle, roller skates, or dancing, at everyone's own pace. The event is designed to get the entire community outside, having fun and enjoying healthy activities in Eugene's public spaces while showing how easy it is to get around by human-powered transportation.

To volunteer or learn more about Eugene Sunday Streets, go to www.eugenesundaystreets.org or call 541-501-0390.

"We Can!" Make the World Junior Championships Sustainable

The City's Waste Prevention team is partnering with TrackTown USA to implement sustainable practices at the upcoming IAAF World Junior Championships (WJC). The track and field event, which will take place July 22 - 27, is seeking an Evergreen certification through the Council for Responsible Sport, whose stringent requirements include recovering 75 percent of materials rather than sending them to the landfill. Volunteers on the sustainability crew will engage fans about Eugene's efforts to prevent waste, while top-sorting materials into their respective bins.

Additionally, Waste Prevention staff are planning a "Sustainability Scavenger Hunt" that will take place for the duration of the event (July 22 - 27). Ticketed guests who visit the We Can! booth at the WJC (located in the Market Street area of the venue) will have a chance to search for clues about Eugene's sustainable efforts. Clues include riding public transit, visiting businesses that participate in Love Food Not Waste, fixing a flat tire at the UO Bike Barn, and more! Participants will take photos of themselves while completing clues; anyone who finishes the hunt will receive the grand prize: a commemorative medallion made from locally salvaged wood.

For more information about waste prevention for events, please contact Waste Prevention and Green Building Coordinator [Jimmy Trasport](mailto:jimmy.trasport@eugene-or.gov) at 541-682-6842.

