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EUGENE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER
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AROUND THE CITY

City Seeks Feedback on Draft Plan for Housing and Community Development Funds

The cities of Eugene and Springfield receive federal funds to invest in improving our communities. Every five years, a local Consolidated Plan is created to help the City determine community needs and how federal funding could be used to help meet those needs in the best way possible. A draft of the priorities and strategies for the next five-year plan is now available at <http://www.eugene-or.gov/hudconplan> for community review and feedback. The comment period is open from February 24 through March 25, and comments should be directed to Stephanie Jennings at stephanie.a.jennings@ci.eugene.or.us.



The Eugene-Springfield 2015 Consolidated Plan serves as the framework to identify housing, economic, and community development priorities in Eugene and Springfield. The plan directs how federal funds from the HOME Investment Partnerships Program and Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) will be spent from July 2015 to June 2020.

Eligible uses of these federal program funds include: improvements to facilities that serve low and moderate income families and individuals; improvements to public infrastructure in low-income neighborhoods; provision of public services; economic development assistance; and projects that increase access to affordable housing and address homelessness.

The amount of funding for these programs is determined by a federal formula and Congressional appropriations. It is anticipated to be approximately \$14 million over the next five years. The next Consolidated Plan is due on May 15, 2015. For more information, contact Stephanie Jennings at 541-682-5529 or Stephanie.a.jennings@ci.eugene.or.us.

Thriller Writer Kevin O'Brien at Eugene Public Library

The Downtown Eugene Public Library will host a free talk by Kevin O'Brien on Sunday, March 22 at 1:00 p.m. O'Brien is the *New York Times* bestselling author of 15 internationally published thrillers. He is visiting town in connection with the Wordcrafters of Eugene Conference.

Before his thrillers landed him on the *New York Times* bestseller list, Kevin O'Brien was a railroad inspector who worked all the live-long day and wrote novels at night. He grew up on Chicago's North Shore, the youngest of six children, and studied Journalism at Marquette University in Milwaukee. He moved to Seattle in 1980. His railroad job took him all over the Pacific Northwest, and he wrote most of his first novel "Actors" in motels.



After publishing his second book, "Only Son," he began writing full time. His first thriller, "The Next to Die" was a *USA Today* Bestseller. Three more *USA Today* bestselling thrillers followed. Then came "The Last Victim," which hit the *New York Times* bestseller list and won the Spotted Owl Award for Best Pacific Northwest Mystery.

O'Brien has continued to turn out *New York Times* bestselling thrillers, which have been translated into 14 languages. His most recent titles are "Unspeakable" and "Tell Me You're Sorry." He also serves on the board of Seattle 7 Writers, a collective dedicated to supporting literacy, writing, and education.

This event is hosted by Eugene Public Library in connection with the Wordcrafters of Eugene Conference. Books for purchase and signing will be available courtesy of the University of Oregon Duck Store. For more information, contact the Eugene Public Library at 541-682-5450 or www.eugene-or.gov/library.

Purchasing Staff Hosts Table at Reverse Vendor Fair

On February 25, City Purchasing staff hosted a table at the University of Oregon's Reverse Vendor Fair held at Autzen Stadium. The free event gave City staff a chance to meet with representatives from area businesses, including small and



minority- and women-owned companies, interested in doing business with the City. Staff from Purchasing and Facility Management spoke with many vendors representing a wide variety of firms including construction companies, office furniture retailers, software developers, artists, plumbers, vehicle salesmen, etc.

Over 350 vendors registered for the fair. City staff provided vendors with a brochure entitled "Be Our Partner – Building Our Community." This brochure details how to do business with the City, including information about signing up for bids and notifications and staff contact information. For the approximately 100 vendors

that provided business cards, Purchasing staff followed up with an email that included additional information about registering for the eBid system.

Overall the event was a great exercise in team building between staff and the business community. For more information, contact Eugene Purchasing at 541-682-5055.