

September 16, 2016

City Council Newsletter



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Trolley Tracks Unearthed Under Willamette Street



Another piece of Eugene history was briefly on display in downtown. As part of the reconstruction of Willamette Street, crews earlier this month unearthed trolley tracks between 11th and 13th avenues. The tracks were part of a streetcar system that was used in the early portion of the 20th Century.

Engineers knew of the track's location as they planned this project. Because of the age of the rails, some date back to 1912, archeologists were retained for the project. They worked with the construction contractor to document and record the old line and its structure.

Crews removed the historic line as they continue their work rebuilding Willamette Street. The City will salvage the basalt pavers, the material alongside the rails in the old roadway. The steel lines will be recycled.



The construction work is expected to continue through late October. The project also calls for the repaving on Willamette Street between 10th and 11th avenues. Traffic is reduced to one southbound lane of travel for the duration of the work. Street parking is also restricted. For more information on the project call Patrick Cox at 541-682-5331.

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Neighborhood Matching Grant Cycle Opens

The City of Eugene Neighborhood Matching Grant cycle is open now through October 31st with \$50,000 available for neighborhood improvement and community-building projects. Community involvement and building relationships are key components and are encouraged by requiring that the project budget include a match amount equal to, or greater than, the grant request. Demonstrating responsible stewardship of our community assets while balancing our community's social and environmental values are additional components of any project proposal submitted.

Grant guidelines and application materials are available on the City's web site, www.eugene-or.gov/nmg, and at the Permit and Information Center located at 99 W 10th or by calling Cindy Koehler at 541-682-5272.

A project description and estimated budget are required for the pre-review process to check for consistency with grant guidelines and existing plans and policies of the City and other partner agencies. Pre-review also ensures applicants submit a competitive final application.

Final applications are due on Tuesday, January 17, 2017. Awards will be announced in April 2017.



Common Ground Garden
Friendly Area Neighbors 2010



For more information about the Neighborhood Matching Grants Program, contact [Cindy Koehler](#), Human Rights and Neighborhood Involvement at 541-682-5272.

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City Hosts National Preparedness Month Events

September is National Preparedness Month, and the City of Eugene is hosting a number of events for community members and employees to learn how to prepare themselves, their families and businesses with a plan and emergency kit should disaster strike our area. Find a full list of [public events on the City website](#). Employees are invited to help determine how to improve our efforts for next year by participating in this [survey](#).



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It's National Library Card Sign-Up Month



In September, Eugene Public Library joins the nationwide campaign to call attention to the value of a library card. Most Eugeneans have a library card, but not all – and not everyone knows that anyone who lives in the City of Eugene can get a library card for free.

The Library is popular with different people for different reasons. For some, the value of a Library card is primarily financial. In fact, if you want to tally up the dollar value of your card, try this fun online [Library Value Calculator](#).

For others, the Library's value lies in the availability of a particular type of item, service, or event. There are some who especially treasure the Library's three locations as physical places to visit and browse. Many parents appreciate the Library as a family destination and resource. And for some, the greatest value is in the principles the Library stands for and embodies every day, including access for all, lifelong learning, diversity, and freedom of expression.

Says Library Director Connie Bennett, "This month, we encourage Eugene Public Library cardholders to take a moment to tell friends and neighbors about all that a library card can do for them." The Library has hundreds of thousands of choices to choose from: books, ebooks, audio books, films and music on disc and online. Plus

newspapers, magazines, state-of-the-art research and professional tools, Internet access, professional help with questions, online tutoring, and more.

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

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Historic Marker Returns to Downtown Eugene

Sitting in the shadows of the newest Whole Foods store is a small concrete indentation. While it may not look like more than a misplaced light pole placement, the location marks a piece of Eugene history. It's considered to be one of the last true corners of the original Eugene City.



In the 1850s, the United States government granted Eugene and Mary Skinner 640 acres, part of the Donation Land Claim Act of 1850. Surveyors staked out the land which stretched from what is now Tyler Street at its western most point to Mill Street and the Willamette River on the east. On its southern end, the property started at 8th Avenue and went north to the Willamette River.



As the City developed and properties changed hands, nearly all of those markers were lost or damaged. The only one that survived was near the corner of 8th Avenue and Mill Street. This corner is significant because Skinner used this marker to help divide his land claim.

"All of the land development in downtown Eugene is based upon this corner," said Tim Fassbender, a surveyor with the Public Works Department. "This corner gives a sense of what Skinner was visualizing when he made his land claim."

On Thursday, September 22, Fassbender and a relative of Skinner will replace the plaque that marks the original corner. The local press is invited to attend the ceremony. The City of Eugene would like to thank Whole Foods on this project, which played a major role in the preservation of this corner. For more information, contact Tim Fassbender at 651-682-2704.

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[Links to Eugene City Council Resources](#)

[Mayor & City Council Webpage](#)



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