

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

August 11, 2011



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AROUND THE CITY

National Environmental Award Recognizes Achievements in Delta Ponds Bridge Project

The Delta Ponds Bridge Project has received a 2011 Environmental Excellence Award from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Bridge Project Manager Patrick Cox from the Public Works Engineering Division will accept the award on behalf of the City on Aug. 22, at the International Conference on Ecology and Transportation in Seattle.



The award recognizes Eugene's exemplary achievement in non-motorized transportation and access for the Delta Ponds Bridge Project. The bridge, which was dedicated in September 2010, removed a physical barrier between the Willakenzie neighborhood and the Delta Ponds parkland and wildlife habitat that had been in place since the Delta Highway was constructed in 1966. The bridge is also fully compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act and provides access for all citizens.

"Elegantly designed with two soaring pylons and triangular elements that evoke the Greek letter delta, the Delta Ponds Bridge is Eugene's latest monument to livability," said FHWA Administrator Victor Mendez in announcing the award. "The Delta Ponds Bridge provides safe and

attractive bicycle and pedestrian access where none existed previously, and encourages residents to consider healthy and active transportation alternatives. This project demonstrates that dedicated bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure is an important component of the transportation network."

Funded primarily by federal grants, the \$5.6 million bridge project also included constructing sidewalks along Robin Hood Avenue, a raised-median island on Willagillespie Road at Robin Hood, the largest raised-median island in the City at the bridge's west terminus on Goodpasture Island Road, 11 wayfaring signs, LED lighting, and a public art piece titled "Bountiful."

For more information about the award, contact Patrick Cox at 541-682-6854.

Arts and Economic Prosperity IV

Arts and Economic Prosperity IV is a nationwide study being conducted by Americans for the Arts throughout 2011 to evaluate the impact that spending by nonprofit arts organizations and their audiences has on the national and local economies. Volunteers are busy collecting surveys at arts and culture events around town as a part of the study.

In 2007, the third and most recent time that Americans for the Arts conducted this study, the report showed that on a national level the nonprofit arts and culture industry annually generates \$166.2 billion in economic activity. That's an incredible number and something that the entire arts community should celebrate.

But what is Eugene's contribution to that nationwide impact? It is already clear how important arts and cultural events are to making Eugene a vibrant community – a great place to live and visit.

Now, thanks to collaboration among the Arts and Business Alliance of Eugene (ABAE), the City of Eugene and the University of Oregon's Center for Community Arts and Cultural Policy (CCACP), it will also be known how much Eugene's nonprofit arts and culture community contributes to the community's overall economic health.

This is an exciting opportunity for the community. For more information about Eugene's participation as a study partner, and to find out how to become a volunteer, please visit www.EugeneAEP.wordpress.com.

A community forum on the role of the arts in Eugene which allows participants to discuss with other community members how the results of this study might be used may be found at www.EugeneAEP.wordpress.com. Be sure to fill out a survey at events throughout 2011.

For more information, contact Karm Hagedorn at 541-682-5700.

Ceremony on August 18 Commemorates Opening of I-5 Southbound Bridge

Join U.S. Representative Peter DeFazio, local elected leaders and Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) officials on Thursday, Aug. 18, from 10 a.m. to noon, to commemorate the opening of the new southbound Interstate 5 Willamette River Bridge. The event will include brief presentations, including comments by Councilor Alan Zelenka, a reception and tours of the bridge.

The ceremony will take place on the work bridge located under the new bridge. Parking is available at the University of Oregon Motor Pool at 3233 Franklin Boulevard. Please allow 20 minutes to walk to the ceremony by following the signs. A courtesy shuttle will be available upon request. After the ceremony, guided walking tours will lead visitors around the work bridge or up the southbound bridge. Closed-toe shoes are required to participate in the tours. Please plan for one hour to complete the tour.

The bridge will open two months earlier than estimated when construction began in August 2009. With the southbound bridge open, ODOT will start building the new northbound Willamette River Bridge.

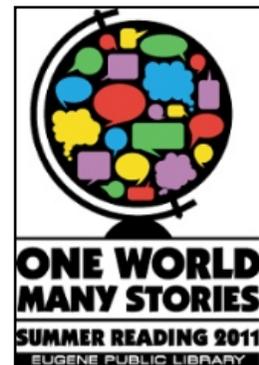
For more information, contact Construction Public Involvement Coordinator John Lively at 541-484-7052, or Transportation Planning Engineer Chris Henry at 541-682-8472.

Kids and Teens Show "Eugene's Got Talent!" at Eugene Public Library

The Downtown Eugene Public Library will host "Eugene's Got Talent!" a free variety show performed by youth, on Thursday, Aug. 18, at 5 p.m.

Auditions for the show will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 17, at 4 p.m. Sign-ups for a limited number of audition spots will begin at 3:30 p.m. To audition, prepare a solo, duo, or group act that includes at least one person age seven to 17, and which lasts three minutes or less. Bring any equipment needed.

This youth talent show is part of [Summer Reading 2011](http://www.eugene-or.gov/library), featuring a series of free events for all ages united by the theme "One World, Many Stories." For more information, visit www.eugene-or.gov/library or call the Eugene Public Library at 541-682-5450.



Youth Sets National Record at Amazon Pool

It was quite a day for a young swimmer at the Oregon Swimming, Inc. 11-and-Over State Championships that were held at Amazon Pool July 28 - 31.

In a preliminary heat, Keaton Blovad of the Lake Oswego Swim Club lowered her previous personal best by swimming the 50-meter backstroke in 30.5 seconds. In the final competition that afternoon, she smashed that mark and set a new national record for her age group of 30.16 seconds.

Fifty-seven swim clubs from around the state participated in the meet at Amazon Pool. The pool was designed as a competitive pool and hosts local swim meets three times a year and the state competition every three years. For more information, contact Rich Fay at 541-682-6336.