

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

June 2, 2011



City of Eugene
777 Pearl Street, Room 105
Eugene, Oregon 97401-2793
(541) 682-5010
(541) 682-5414 (FAX)
www.eugene-or.gov

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AROUND THE CITY

LTD University Station Renovation Set to Start Soon

This summer Lane Transit District will renovate the University of Oregon transit facilities on Kincaid Street north of East 13th Avenue. The project will improve transit service for passengers by adding shelters, lighting, and route-specific bus bays. Pedestrians will benefit from a new sidewalk area on the east side of Kincaid Street and new crosswalks at the intersection of East 12th Avenue and Kincaid Street. Increased bicycle parking will benefit cyclists, and traffic flow will be improved by a new traffic signal at the intersection of East 11th Avenue and Kincaid Street. The project also will improve LTD operational efficiency.



Work will proceed mid-June through mid-September 2011. LTD and Eugene Public Works are working closely to coordinate the LTD station project and the City's project to improve Alder Street (Franklin Boulevard to East 18th Avenue) and East 13th Avenue (Alder to Kincaid streets) while both projects are under construction this summer. The two agencies recently sent a combined project mailer to more than 1,000 residents in the West University Neighborhood and are collaborating on communications with local businesses and the UO.

During construction, LTD will maintain access to property and businesses. Traffic will continue to flow in one northbound lane on Kincaid Street. On-street parking on the west side of Kincaid Street between East 13th and East 11th avenues will be unavailable. LTD will maintain normal summer transit service from temporary locations on Kincaid Street, south of East 13th Avenue. Signage will direct LTD customers to the temporary bus stops.

Several trees will be removed to accommodate the new transit shelters. LTD will plant several new trees and will contribute to the City of Eugene street tree fund to provide more trees than are removed. LTD also will plant new shrubs and ground cover.

Built in 1985 and expanded in 1995, the LTD University Station serves more than 45,000 passenger boardings per month. In 2010, LTD explored options and gathered public input to improve the transit facility. The planning work was funded by an Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) grant. In 2011, LTD received \$2.1 million in ODOT Flexible Funds for construction. LTD will invest \$200,000 from its capital budget to complete the estimated \$2.3 million project.

For more information, visit ltd.org or call LTD capital projects communications coordinator Lisa VanWinkle at 541-682-6212.

Redistricting Information Open House June 9 at the Downtown Library

An open house on redistricting will be held on June 9, 2011 from 4-7 pm at the Downtown Library's Bascom-Tykeson Room. Participants are welcome to drop in any time to learn more about ward redistricting in Eugene, review ward maps and take a quick survey on what criteria they think should guide the redrawing of city wards. In addition, State legislative staff will be available to answer questions and provide information about Oregon's redistricting process.



In 2011, the Eugene City Council will redraw (redistrict) the existing eight city ward boundaries that are used to elect local City Councilors and Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) members. Every 10 years, the Eugene City Council adjusts council ward boundaries to accommodate population changes and shifts.

More information on ward redistricting and public involvement opportunities is available at www.eugene-or.gov/redistricting. The redistricting criteria survey is also available online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/wardcriteria>.

For more information contact Laura Hammond at 541-682-6021 or laura.a.hammond@ci.eugene.or.us.

Grow Your Garden Grant Teaches Youth About Nutrition

The City of Eugene Recreation Division has been awarded a \$5,000 one-time grant from the National Park and Recreation Association (NRPA) to engage youth in gardening, outdoor activity and healthy eating. The purpose is to grow fresh produce for consumption, teach basics about gardening, nutritional food, and healthy lifestyles to youth ages 10-16 years of age.



The City of Eugene was one of 10 park and recreation agencies nationally to receive a grant from NRPA. The money is being used to support a garden program at Petersen Barn Community Center, create a new program at the River House Community Center and establish a new garden at Sheldon Community Center.

As part of the grant, Recreation staff will evaluate the children's knowledge, skills and awareness of nutritional behavior change, consider the economic value of a community garden, and collect results (surveys, anecdotes, pictures, and video) for distribution. Because this is a demonstration grant, the information collected will be disseminated nationally to recognize the vital role recreation programs play in affecting healthy communities. Library

Recreation and Cultural Services staff will also use the information to highlight the City's contribution in encouraging healthy and active lifestyles. For more information, contact Molly Elliott, 541-682-6307.

New Smarttrips Ambassadors Program Kicks Off This June

City transportation staff has a new training program for people who already make a difference with their own transportation choices, but would like to do more.

Trained *smarttrips* ambassadors will reach out to Eugene residents with the message that there are a variety of fun ways to get around town besides driving alone. With the right tools and resources, community members can reap the rewards of walking, biking, taking the bus, or carpooling, even for just a couple trips a week.



City transportation staff will support *smarttrips* ambassadors in hosting neighborhood block parties, co-leading guided bicycle rides and walks and talking with the public at *smarttrips* events like Breakfast at the Bridges.

Anyone interested in participating can register now for a free hands-on training on Saturday, June 11, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Whiteaker Community Center, at the corner of Clark and North Jackson. Breakfast and snacks will be provided and all ambassadors will receive a free *smarttrips* T-shirt and extra travel tools. Participants will learn and practice the skills needed to spread the word about transportation options. City staff and other local resource

providers will provide insights on what makes Eugene such a great place for making trips without a personal vehicle. In addition, participants will learn more about the connections between our transportation choices and health, environment and our pocketbooks in a way that motivates action.

To register online, go to: www.smarttripseugene.com. From more information about smarttrips ambassadors, contact Lindsay Selser at Lindsay.r.selser@ci.eugene.or.us or 541-682-5094.

Urban Renewal Bonds Sold

On May 25, the Urban Renewal Agency sold \$7.9 million of bonds to finance projects approved in the Downtown Urban Renewal Plan in 2010. The proceeds from the bonds were used, together with other funds of the Agency, to make an \$8 million payment to Lane Community College to support the Downtown Campus project.

The Downtown Urban Renewal Plan focused on key downtown projects including:

- Lane Community College's (LCC) proposed new downtown campus and energy center on the vacant lot at 10th and Charnelton, across from the Eugene Public Library;
- Improvements to the Park Blocks for the Farmer's Market; and
- Payment of the debt for the Broadway Garages, which will free up funds that can be used for public safety enhancements downtown.

These downtown revitalization projects aim to boost the local economy and foster a vibrant downtown. Currently, over \$83 million in downtown development is underway.

Sale of the Urban Renewal Bonds, which were purchased by Bank of America through a private bank placement, also allowed for refinancing of the Broadway Place Garages (\$4.39 million). The original bonds for that project bear interest rates ranging from 6.875% to 7%; the Urban Renewal Bonds used to refinance the project were sold at a rate of 5.2%. The lower interest rate will translate into approximately \$300,000 of interest cost savings over the remaining life of the bonds.

For more information, contact Sue Cutsogeorge, Finance Director, at 541-682-5589.

Used Mystery Novel Sale Fundraiser at the Library



Mystery-lovers: save the date! On Saturday, June 18, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., the Friends of Eugene Public Library will hold a Used Mystery Novel Sale at the Downtown Library.

Readers will be able to choose from thousands of popular, gently-used detective stories and spy thrillers priced at just \$1.00 each. From classics to current bestsellers, the books will be sorted by authors' last names, making it easy to find favorites.

All proceeds will go to support Eugene Public Library programs. Admission and parking are free. For more information, call the Eugene Public Library at 541-682-5450 or visit www.eugene-or.gov/library.

NEXT WEEK

06/08	W	Noon	All	Council Work Session	McNutt Room
06/08	W	1:00pm	BT, GP, MC	IGR	McNutt Room

UPCOMING

JUNE

06/13	M	5:30pm	All	Council Work Session	McNutt Room
06/13	M	7:30pm	All	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
06/15	W	Noon	All	Council Work Session	McNutt Room
06/15	W	1:00pm	BT, GP, MC	IGR	McNutt Room
06/20	M	5:30pm	All	Council Work Session	Council Chamber
06/20	M	7:30pm	All	Council Public Hearing	Council Chamber
06/22	W	Noon	All	Council Work Session	McNutt Room
06/22	W	1:00pm	BT, GP, MC	IGR	McNutt Room

06/27	M	5:30pm	All	Council Work Session	McNutt Room
06/27	M	7:30pm	All	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
06/29	W	Noon	All	Council Work Session	McNutt Room
06/29	W	1:00pm	BT, GP, MC	IGR	McNutt Room
JULY					
07/11	M	5:30pm	All	Council Work Session	McNutt Room
07/11	M	7:30pm	All	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
07/13	W	Noon	All	Council Work Session	McNutt Room
07/18	M	7:30pm	All	Council Public Hearing	Council Chamber
07/20	W	Noon	All	Council Work Session	McNutt Room
07/25	M	5:30pm	All	Council Work Session	McNutt Room
07/25	M	7:30pm	All	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
07/27	W	Noon	All	Council Work Session	McNutt Room

COUNCIL BREAK: July 28 – September 12