

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

February 25, 2010



City of Eugene

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IN THIS WEEK'S EDITION

HIKING THE OREGON COAST TRAIL AT EUGENE PUBLIC LIBRARY
LIBRARY OFFERS JOB SEARCH AND RESUME WRITING COMPUTER CLASSES
FIRE & EMS PERSONNEL COMPLETE CPR RECERTIFICATION
OUTSIDE REVIEWERS GIVE HIGH MARKS TO STREET REPAIR BOND MEASURE PROJECTS
EPA GRANT ALLOWS SMARTTRIPS EUGENE PROGRAM TO EXPAND INTO MORE NEIGHBORHOODS
MUSIC PROVIDES UPLIFTING ENVIRONMENT OUTSIDE OF LIBRARY
PAVEMENT PRESERVATION PROJECT ON 6th AND 7th AVENUES EARNS AWARD FOR QUALITY

AROUND THE CITY

Hiking the Oregon Coast Trail at Eugene Public Library

Imagine a national coast trail that would make it possible to walk, pedal, or boat around the entire United States border. Learn more about this idea at "Hiking the Oregon Coast Trail," an illustrated talk by Al LePage, Director of the National Coast Trail Association, at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 4, at the Eugene Downtown Public Library. Admission is free.

LePage will share stories and images of his Oregon Coast Trail hike: 400 miles in 30 days. He has hiked, kayaked, and biked more than 2,500 miles of the envisioned 10,000-mile National Coast Trail. In addition to Oregon, he has hiked the coasts of Washington and California, making him the first person ever to hike both the 1,800-mile West Coast Trail and the 750-mile Great Northeast Trail.



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

Library Offers Job Search and Résumé Writing Computer Classes

On Sunday, February 28, 4 - 6 p.m., the Eugene Downtown Public Library will hold a free, hands-on computer class to offer assistance with job searches and résumé writing.

Participants will get information and support to help with job hunting, including how to research opportunities and create an effective résumé. Also provided will be information about free library tools such as Microsoft Word's Résumé Wizard, the Oregon Career Information System, and LearningExpress (practice exams), as well as Internet resources including Craigslist, Monster.com, and the Oregon Employment Department website. Internet experience is required. For information, call the Eugene Public Library at 541-682-5450 (press 2).

Fire & EMS Personnel Complete CPR Recertification

Response personnel in the City's Fire & EMS Department recently completed recertification in American Heart Association (AHA) Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). All emergency medical services responders – including members of engine and truck companies – are required to meet current CPR standards, which change about every five years.

The current AHA CPR standards stress the importance of chest compressions, instructing responders to “Push Hard and Push Fast” and to not stop for longer than 10 seconds. This can be equated to priming a pump. In order to get the oxygenated blood to circulate, the pump (heart) has to be primed. In order to keep the oxygenated blood circulating, the pump has to keep pumping. This is why the recommended ratio of compressions to ventilations is now 30-to-two for a single rescuer; compressions should continue at a rate of about 100 compressions per minute until an Automated External Defibrillator can be activated or until emergency medical technicians arrive.

Even compression-only CPR has been proven effective. The Fire & EMS Department is just one link in the chain of survival. One of the other important links is the layperson becoming involved in another person’s emergency and performing CPR. The Fire & EMS Department encourages everyone to become trained in CPR according to the latest AHA standards. For more information, please contact EMS Chief JoAnna Kamppi at 541-682-7104.

Outside Reviewers Give High Marks to Street Repair Bond Measure Projects

With one year of projects in the rearview mirror and another busy season coming up, a bond measure to fix city streets has received high marks from a citizen review panel and an independent auditing firm. Eugene voters in November 2008, approved a \$35.9 million bond measure to repair 32 streets and fix local bikes paths.

To promote accountability, City Manager Jon Ruiz pledged to the council and the voters that he would create a citizen street repair review panel and have an outside auditor issue reports on the use of the bond proceeds. Copies of those first-year reports are included in the February 25 council packet.

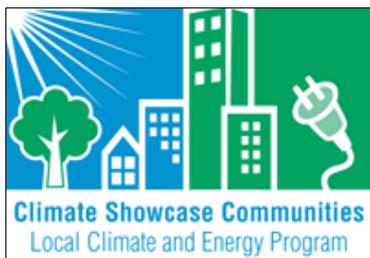


The 12-member Street Repair Review Panel reviewed the four bond measure projects completed in 2009 – Bailey Hill Road, Goodpasture Island Road, Railroad Boulevard, and Amazon Path – and concluded that “the bond proceeds were used for the authorized purposes and in compliance with the limitations and restrictions” outlined in the bond measure. The panel also found that the City was able to complete its 2009 bond measure projects with significant cost savings due to favorable bids from contractors and, as a result, encouraged the City and the Public Works Department to accelerate the street repair schedule as much as is reasonable to take advantage of anticipated continued favorable bidding conditions in the future. The panel also agreed that giving the public accurate information about why some streets get repaired while roads in worse shape do not get repaired is an ongoing educational issue.

Meanwhile, the accounting firm of Isler CPA studied the 2009 bond expenditures and found them in full compliance with the provisions of the bond measure.

The Public Works Department’s busy road repair schedule for 2010 includes seven bond measure projects: the intersection of 29th Avenue and Willamette Street, and portions of Goodpasture Island Road, South Willamette Street, East 18th Avenue, Harlow Road, Patterson Street, and the Fern Ridge Path.

For more information about the reports related to the bond measure to fix streets, contact Eric Jones, Public Works public affairs manager at 541-682-5523, eric.r.jones@ci.eugene.or.us or visit the bond measure web site at www.eugene-or.gov/gobonds.



EPA Grant Allows SmartTrips Eugene Program to Expand Into More Neighborhoods

A new project that will promote environmentally friendly commutes in Eugene will receive financial support from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). SmartTrips Eugene is designed to reduce drive-alone trips and increase biking, walking, and public transit in targeted geographic areas of the city. A pilot project will start in the Harlow neighborhood this summer. The EPA Climate Showcase Communities Grant will provide the City of Eugene \$104,126 to continue this program into 2011, making it possible to offer it to the Trainsong, Jefferson/Westside and Whiteaker neighborhoods. The 2011 SmartTrips program will provide customized outreach to approximately 12,000 residents.

The Climate Showcase Communities Grant Program is administered by the EPA’s State and Local Climate and Energy Program, which provides technical assistance, tools, and guidance to help state, local, and tribal

governments implement policies and programs to mitigate climate change. The carbon dioxide emissions savings from the program equals 19,797 gallons of gasoline.

SmartTrips Eugene incorporates an innovative and individualized marketing program that hand-delivers packets of information to residents who wish to learn more about all of their transportation options including transit, walking, bicycling, carpooling, and combining trips. Key components feature biking and walking maps and organized activities that get people out in their neighborhoods or places of employment to shop, work, and discover how many trips they can easily, conveniently, and safely make without using a car. SmartTrips programs in other areas have achieved a reduction in vehicle miles traveled up to 13 percent in each neighborhood it has targeted.

"It's great to see a city make it easy for citizens to use environmentally-friendly ways of getting around," said Michelle Pirzadeh, deputy regional administrator for the EPA. "We're excited to support this initiative - it's a big step in the right direction to energy efficiency."

Most of the Harlow neighborhood and a portion of the Cal Young neighborhood will be included in the 2010 pilot program. The SmartTrips Eugene pilot program is funded by a separate federal grant from the Department of Energy – Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant program. Close proximity to the downtown area and the University of Oregon, and a good pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure make this an ideal neighborhood to start the SmartTrips Eugene project.

For more information about the Climate Showcase Communities program, visit <http://epa.gov/statelocalclimate>. For more information, please contact *SmartTrips Eugene* Program Manager Lindsay Selser, at 541-682-5094 or Lindsay.r.selser@ci.eugene.or.us.

Music Provides Uplifting Environment Outside of Library

Patrons and passers-by are now being treated to music near the entrance of the Eugene Downtown Public Library. The music is another step the library has taken in the past several months to ensure safe and welcoming access to the library for the entire community.



The music is intended to create a pleasant, uplifting environment as patrons enter the library. Music selections will range from classical to light jazz. At other times, poetry readings may be played over the recently installed speakers. All audio selections will be played softly, to change the sound dynamics of the library's exterior without overwhelming conversations or encouraging an audience. The music and readings have been selected from the library's vast collection of audio files. If library patrons wish to put an item they hear on hold for future checkout, library staff can provide information about the selection playing at any particular time.

Other steps taken toward improving the library's exterior environment include a City Council-adopted ban on smoking on the sidewalk that will take effect March 12, more frequent power-washing of the sidewalks to improve cleanliness, "Walk bikes, Carry skateboards" signs to increase pedestrian safety, and increased police bicycle patrols. For more information, contact Library Services Director Connie Bennett at 541-682-5363 or connie.j.bennett@ci.eugene.or.us.

Pavement Preservation Project on 6th and 7th Avenues Earns Award for Quality

The pavement preservation project on Sixth and Seventh avenues completed in October 2009, has been awarded a first-place paving award by the Asphalt Pavement Association of Oregon (APAO) in the Urban Arterial category.

The project encompassed milling of the top layers of deteriorated pavement and repaving with warm-mix asphalt on 6th and 7th avenues between High and Washington streets. The project also included reconstructing localized areas of failed pavement and upgrading selected ADA ramps. The project was constructed at night to reduce impact to the traveling public and downtown businesses.



Award-winning paving projects are selected by APAO based on smoothness, quality of the paving, and complexity of the project. The

project was constructed by Wildish Construction with project management and inspection performed by City of Eugene Public Works Engineering staff. For more information, contact Pavement Preservation Program Manager Matt Rodrigues at 541-682-6036.