

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

May 22, 2008



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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City Inspectors Encourage Do-it-Yourselfers to Think Permit



Along with the many items -- lumber, fasteners paint, tools -- homeowners need to consider when beginning a building or remodel project, the City is encouraging them to include required construction permits on their 'To Do' list.

City building inspectors Stuart Holderby and Jason Johannesen were on hand at the Green Acres Road Home Depot on a recent busy Saturday to give information about *ThinkPermit*, a program sponsored by the Oregon Building Officials Association to promote safe home construction through permits and inspections. The inspectors also answered numerous general home construction and improvement questions. Holderby and Johannesen

provided 59 customers with detailed information on *ThinkPermit*, and estimate that about 175 folks visited their table and received various *ThinkPermit* items supplied by the statewide association -- brochures, magnets, pencils -- as well as stickers and hard hats for kids.

Building and Permit Services staff is in discussions with other building supply store managers about the possibility of hosting regular Saturday sessions—perhaps monthly or quarterly—in which City inspectors could provide permit information, answer questions and maybe even issue some simple permits and schedule inspections.

Information about *ThinkPermit* is at www.thinkpermit.com. For additional information, please contact Building Inspection Supervisor Kyle Richardson, Planning and Development Department, at 682-8338 (kyle.richardson@ci.eugene.or.us).

City Manager Initiates Forums to Listen to Community Residents

As part of his introduction to the community, City Manager Jon Ruiz is scheduling listening forums throughout the city during May and June. Ruiz is initiating these forums to meet with community residents, to listen to and better understand their priorities, concerns and visions for the community, and to discuss opportunities to improve City services.

The first session was on May 15 at the Churchill High School Library. Ward 8 City Councilor Chris Pryor, Public Works Director Kurt Corey and Neighborhood Services staff were also present at the meeting to help answer questions. City staff recorded comments and questions, and notes will be posted on the City's website.

The next meetings are on Wednesday, May 28 at the Hilyard Community Center, and Thursday, May 29, at Irving Elementary; both begin at 7:00 p.m. At least one forum will be held in each City ward and City Councilors will attend when possible. The schedule of all the meetings is available on the City website at www.eugene-or.gov. For more information contact Community Relations Director Jan Bohman, 682-5587.

Eugene Police Volunteer Honored as Senior Role Model

Eugene Police volunteer Lew Erisman was among seven volunteers honored as Older Adult Service and Information Service (OASIS) Senior Role Models at a celebration on May 16. To date, he has donated 2,843 hours of service to the Eugene Police Department since 2003!

Each year, OASIS solicits nominations from Lane County agencies for their annual Senior Role Model Awards. Award winners are selected based on their involvement in activities that have made a difference and have made a positive impact, whether in the lives of individuals or in the Lane County community at-large. Volunteers age 50+ who deserve to be recognized for outstanding community service are eligible.



Award presented to Lew by Scott McKee of Quality Financial Group, Inc.

Lew joined the Volunteers in Policing Program in December 2003. He is a Citizens' Police Academy graduate and volunteers his time with the West University Public Safety Station (WUPSS), where he greets the public, provides information and referrals to citizens (over the telephone and on a walk-in basis), and assists with a variety of WUPSS projects.

Debbie Janecek, the WUPSS station manager, is responsible for managing all of the programs provided by the station to the community, while responding to an average of 270 telephone calls and walk-ins per month. That makes Lew's gifts of his time and talent with helping others valuable! "Lew is an outstanding and dedicated member of our team," said Janecek. "He has gained a vast knowledge about the department and the neighborhood and is exceptional at assisting people who come in or call for service and/or information. He frequently volunteers to take on more hours to help with station coverage when other volunteers are out of the office. We're so fortunate to have Lew and we appreciate him tremendously!" Whenever Lew is thanked for his time and effort he states, "I just want to help in any way I can."

Lew's award was presented to him by Scott McKee of Quality Financial Group, Inc. OASIS is a national nonprofit educational organization designed to enhance the quality of life for mature adults. Offering challenging programs in the arts, humanities, wellness, technology and volunteer service, OASIS creates opportunities for older adults to continue their personal growth and provide meaningful service to the community. For more information, contact Volunteers in Policing Program Coordinator Carrie Chouinard at 682-5355 or carrie.f.chouinard@ci.eugene.or.us.

City Partners with Groups to Offer Bicycle Drivers Education Classes

The City of Eugene is partnering with the Greater Eugene Area Riders and the League of American Bicyclists to offer classes from beginner to intermediate level cyclists which teach how to bicycle effectively and safely as a vehicle.

"A bicycle is a vehicle under the law. Cyclists need to know how to ride safely and responsibly as a vehicle using the same system of streets as motorized vehicles" says Shane Rhodes, a certified instructor from the League of American Bicyclists and Safe Routes to School Program Manager.

The classes follow the curriculum of the League of American Bicyclists and include training on how to ride safely and legally in traffic or on paths. Skills like emergency safety maneuvers to avoid crashes, traffic skills, and the laws governing bicycle riding are covered along with commute planning and basic bike mechanics. The classes offered include Commuter Skills, Street Skills I & II, and Kids I geared toward children K-3rd grade with a parent. Street Skills I will be offered May 30, June 12, and June 20. Street Skills II will be offered May 31 and June 21. Commuter Skills for those interested in learning best practices for bike commuting will be offered on July 15. Kids I will be offered on July 19. For more information, Transportation Options Coordinator contact Cindy Clarke at 682-5285.

Eugene Public Works Earns Reaccreditation from National Organization

The Eugene Public Works Department has been reaccredited under the rigorous standards of the American Public Works Association (APWA). The department was first accredited by APWA in 2004 and is one of only two accredited agencies in Oregon and 50 in North America.

“While our initial accreditation was truly a significant accomplishment, it is equally as significant to have implemented the necessary measures to assure continuing compliance,” said Public Works Director Kurt Corey. “The true value of the process lies not in the ability

to ‘check the box’ but in using the information to continually improve.”



Reaccreditation team members (from right) Ann Daniels from APWA, Dawn Bendel from the Ohio Auditor's Office, Matt Villereale from Prince William County, Virginia, David Fain from Haltom City, Texas, and local accreditation project co-managers Carla Spangler and Gary McNeel

To earn accreditation, Eugene must be in compliance with almost 400 best management practices in 30 areas ranging from operating the Eugene Airport to treating the region's wastewater. During the reaccreditation process, 167 of those practices were closely scrutinized, and Eugene passed with flying colors. During the initial accreditation process, APWA found 11 practices in which Eugene sets industry standards. During the reaccreditation review, two additional model practices were identified in the areas of snow and ice control materials and wastewater treatment plant safety planning.

For more information, contact Reaccreditation Project Co-Managers Gary McNeel at 682-8451 or Carla Spangler at 682-4894. For more information about APWA's accreditation program, visit www.apwa.net/About/Accreditation.

Writer Seth Kantner at Eugene Public Library



Seth Kantner, author of the bestselling novel *Ordinary Wolves*, will visit the Downtown Eugene Public Library on Monday, June 2, at 6:00 p.m. He will read from, and talk about, his new book about life in Alaska, *Shopping for Porcupine*.

Readers and critics alike were amazed by *Ordinary Wolves*, the tale of an Alaskan childhood largely untouched by outside forces, consumerism, and modernity. The book won the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association Award. *The Los Angeles Times* called it “a rare thing of beauty.” According to *The Denver Post*, “Kantner's language flashes across the page like the Northern Lights.”

Shopping for Porcupine, Kantner's new collection of essays and photos, offers the story of his real-life childhood and shares his insider's perspective on a changing Alaska. Born in a sod igloo on the tundra, Kantner was raised simply on the land: wearing mukluks before they were fashionable, eating boiled caribou pelvis, and communing with the Iñupiaq, the native Eskimos of the region. From his parents' migration to the Arctic wilderness to contemporary struggles between subsistence living and sport hunting, Kantner provides an illuminating, unforgettable account of life in the far north.

A professional journalist and photographer, Kantner has worked as a trapper, fisherman, gardener, mechanic, igloo builder, and adjunct professor. He was honored with a Milkweed National Fiction Prize and a Whiting Award naming him one of the nation's top ten emerging writers. His work has been widely published, including in *The New York Times*, *Outside*, *Orion*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Alaska Geographic*, and *Reader's Digest*. His talk at the Eugene Public Library is co-sponsored by the University of Oregon Bookstore/Duck Store, providing books for purchase and signing. For more information, call the Eugene Public Library at 682-5450 or visit www.eugene-or.gov/library.

Citizen's Guide to Transportation Planning

The Citizen Advisory Committee for the Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization designed a guide for citizens who may not be familiar with the world of transportation planning, entitled "It's How We Get There That Matters." Original artwork by local student Michelle Yockelson and local artist Susan Applegate along with historic photos, help bring planning concepts to life and instill them with the unique qualities of the region.

To view the guide online, visit this website: <http://www.thempo.org> . Copies of the guide are available free of charge as handouts to organizations, public information counters, or at community events. For copies, please contact Lane Council of Governments, 541-682-4283 or mpo@lcog.org for copies.

