

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

October 22, 2009



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AROUND THE CITY

Eugene Celebrates National Make a Difference Day

Millions of Americans across the country will join together to celebrate the 18th Annual Make a Difference Day by volunteering to improve their communities and help neighbors in need. In celebration, Northwest Youth Corps and the City of Eugene Parks and Open Space Division, Eugene Fire, and Emergency Management Program will be working with volunteers to improve fire safety through fire fuel reduction in the transition areas between natural area park land and developed properties. Volunteers will concentrate on removing non-native invasive under-story brush and dead tree limbs on the Ridgeline Trail and around the Wayne Morse Family Farm.

The volunteer event will take place on Saturday, October 24 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. For more information, contact Emergency Program Manager Joe Rizzi, at 682-5664 or joseph.d.rizzi@ci.eugene.or.us.



Bailey Hill Road Project Wins Statewide Award for Transportation Safety

The Bailey Hill Road Improvement Project has been awarded a 2009 Oregon Transportation Safety Award for Best Engineering Project from the Alliance for Community Traffic Safety in Oregon (ACTS Oregon).



The awards committee was very impressed by the project, especially its solutions-oriented collaborative nature. After a fatal crash during the summer of 2007, concerned neighborhood residents formed the Bailey Hill Road Safety Committee to work with City and 4J School District staff to develop an appropriate and effective solution to safety problems on Bailey Hill Road. The end result was an innovative street design called a "road diet" that converted the four-lane undivided road into a two-lane road with a center turn lane. The design included improved pedestrian crossings, wider bike lanes and completion of a missing sidewalk segment. A combination of funding resources, including voter-approved local bonds and a grant from the ODOT Pedestrian and Bike Program was used to implement this project in the summer of 2009. For more information, contact

Transportation Planning Technician Lindsay Selser at 682-5094.

Telecom Program Manager Pam Berrian Receives National Award

At the 29th annual National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) Conference, Pam Berrian received an Ovation Award for "facilitating the development of NATOA comments to the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Broadband Notice of Inquiry proceeding." This FCC proceeding is just one of several federal efforts underway to establish national policy and principles regarding broadband deployment and funding initiatives, many of which impact local governments.

Pam serves as Past-President of the Oregon chapter of NATOA, on the League of Oregon Cities' Cable and Telecom Committee and was appointed by the Governor to the Oregon Telecommunications Coordinating Council. She has worked for the City since 1990, seven years as a program manager in the City Manager's Office and in her current position with Information Services Division.

For more information, contact Information Services Director Randy Kolb at 682-5075.

Responses to Eugene Neighborhood Survey Roll in

To date, over 3,600 people have completed either online or in-person Eugene Neighborhood Surveys. Launched in early August 2009, the survey will continue to collect responses until the end of October 2009. The survey asks what people like about their neighborhood and what they would like to improve, including information on transportation, parks, safety and many other topics. The survey also asks for information about what barriers need to be addressed and what incentives might be needed to increase participation with neighborhood associations. Anyone who lives, works, attends school, or owns property in Eugene is encouraged to take the survey. It is available online at www.eugene-or.gov/neighborhoodsurvey. All survey materials are available in Spanish and alternate formats. The survey is estimated to take five minutes to complete, and participants are eligible to win an iPod or tickets to a Hult Center performance.



Information gathered from the survey will be used to help improve City services and help neighborhood groups with planning and outreach efforts. Neighborhood associations will be able to use the information as baseline data for their Strategic Neighborhood Action Plan (SNAP). SNAPs are an opportunity for a neighborhood to take a proactive, comprehensive look at their neighborhood's needs and create a plan to help address these needs. SNAPs can cover a wide-range of topics including traffic management, housing/homelessness, natural resources, community building, land use, historic preservation, parks, public safety, and economic development.

For more information on the SNAP program, go to www.eugene-or.gov/nap. For information about the Eugene Neighborhood Survey project, or to access it in an alternative format or take it orally, please contact Neighborhood Planner Lorna Flormoe at lorna.r.flormoe@ci.eugene.or.us or 682-5670.

Civil Rights Attorney Evan Wolfson Speaks on Marriage Equality at Eugene Public Library

Famed civil rights attorney Evan Wolfson, named by *TIME* magazine as "one of the 100 most influential people in the world," will give a free talk on Wednesday, November 4, at 6:00 p.m., at the Downtown Eugene Public Library.



Wolfson, the author of *Why Marriage Matters: America, Equality, and Gay People's Right to Marry*, will speak about the past, present, and future of this controversial topic. Like the state of Oregon, Wolfson has a long, high-profile history in the evolution of laws regarding sexual orientation. In recognition of the impact of his work, *The National Law Journal* honored Wolfson as "one of the most influential attorneys in America."

Among his many accomplishments, Wolfson was co-counsel in the landmark Hawaii marriage case, *Baehr v. Miike*, which launched the current nationwide debate about marriage equality. From 1989 to 2001, he worked at Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, the nation's preeminent lesbian/gay legal advocacy group. He argued before the U.S. Supreme Court in *Boy Scouts of America v. Dale*.

Wolfson contributed his expertise to the case that led to the creation of civil unions in Vermont, which have since been replaced with full marriage equality. He also worked with the legal team in *Goodridge v. Department of Public Health*, which in May 2004, led to full marriage equality in Massachusetts.

Between Yale College and Harvard Law School, Wolfson spent two years with the Peace Corps in West Africa. The founder and executive director of the non-profit, Freedom to Marry, Wolfson lives in New York City and appears frequently as a guest expert in the national media.

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

LRCS Reaches out with Social Networking

The [Hult Center](#) was first, then, last summer, [Eugene Public Library](#) signed on. Now, [Recreation Services](#) has a Twitter account, too. The 500 people who are “following” the Hult Center and the Library, and the more modest number following the two-week-old Recreation site receive frequent updates on activities and events sent to their smart phones.



The [Hult Center](#) also has a Facebook page, as does [Amazon Pool](#), [Sheldon Community Center](#), [Amazon Community Center](#), the [Outdoor Program](#), [Adaptive Program](#), and [Petersen Barn Community Center](#). The sites provide information and updates on what’s going on at the local community centers and pools, and provides invitations and notices of events and activities. For information about outdoor activities for adults, check out the [Campbell Community Center](#) Google Group.



New media provides a novel way to build enthusiasm and support for LRCS programs and services. For more information, contact Kathy Madison at 682-6342 or on [Facebook!](#)

Eugene Advances to Gold Level as Bicycle-Friendly Community

Eugene has moved into the prestigious gold circle as a bicycle-friendly community. The League of American Bicyclists this week announced that Eugene has become one of only 10 cities in the nation to be designated at the gold level, which is presented only to communities with “remarkable commitments to bicycling.”

“The League is proud to award Eugene for its work to promote bicycle safety and education while encouraging bicycling in the community,” said League President Andy Clarke.

The designation of Eugene as a gold level, bicycle-friendly community dovetails with the City’s sustainability program. Transportation Planning staff has estimated that a person who uses a bicycle to make a four-mile commute to work just once a week will reduce Co2 emissions by more than 300 pounds over the course of a year. Multiply that by the thousands of bicycle commuters in Eugene (many of whom are daily bike commuters) and it adds up to a really meaningful reduction in the community’s carbon footprint.



Eugene was designated at the silver level in 2004. In reapplying for designation in 2009, Eugene cited a number of factors that make it a bicycle-friendly community: Eugene has 80 miles of on-street bike lanes and 41 miles of off-street paths connected to a regional network of cycling routes; Eugene has a strong bicycle education program, including the Eye-to-Eye Traffic Safety Campaign and a well-organized Safe Routes to Schools program; and Eugene’s cyclists are well represented in policy and legislative issues and have strong connections through groups such as Greater Eugene Area Riders (GEARS), the BikeLane Coalition, the Bicycle Transportation Alliance (BTA), Disciples of Dirt, and the League of American Bicyclists.

Six other communities in Oregon have been designated bicycle-friendly communities by the League of American Bicyclists. Portland is designated at the platinum level and Corvallis is a gold level community, Bend is at the silver level and Ashland, Beaverton and Salem are at the bronze level.

For more information, contact Transportation Planner Dave Roth at 682-5752 or David.F.Roth@ci.eugene.or.us.

Neighborhood Stabilization Program Helps Homebuyers Purchase Properties

The Planning and Development Department will use approximately \$300,000 in funds from the federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) to help encourage home ownership in areas hardest hit by foreclosures. The funds are targeted to help low- to middle-income residents buy and rehabilitate foreclosed

properties that might otherwise become sources of abandonment and blight in their communities. NSP funding is provided through Housing & Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant Program under the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008.

NSP can provide up to \$50,000 in an interest-free, deferred payment loan per household based on the applicant's income and need, required repairs, and eligible energy efficiency upgrades. An eligible applicant's household income cannot exceed 120% of Area Median Income. Applicants do not have to be first-time homebuyers, but they must occupy the property as their primary residence. Applicants will be required to contribute at least of 50% of the minimum down payment required by the primary lender and complete eight hours of homebuyer education. In order to apply for the funds, the foreclosed property must be a single-family unit located in specific census tracts of the city. Properties must be foreclosed, owned by the lender, vacant, and purchased at a minimum of a 1% discount to Fair Market Value.

Information on additional eligibility requirements is available on the Planning and Development website www.eugene-or.gov/pdd or by contacting Bob Briscoe at bob.briscoe@ci.eugene.or.us or 682-5446.