

# EUGENE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

October 29, 2009



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## AROUND THE CITY

### ***Trouble-Making Hazardous Tricksters, Volunteer Help Featured In Newsletter***

Remember Mr. Yuk – the ugly face sticker placed on chemical containers to warn kids about dangerous products? Important information about those toxic tricksters that can end up in local rivers, often unintentionally, has been highlighted in *Stormwater Connections* due to arrive in Eugene area mailboxes over the next two weeks. And, for anyone trying to clear the garage or shed of hazardous materials like paint thinner, old motor oil or electronic waste, some free and easy disposal options have been listed.

For those curious about local projects where volunteers, like the boys shown in this photo, can help with park and creek improvements, read more in the wetlands and waterways section.

Eugene residents have few concerns when it comes to flooding locally, unlike other parts of the country where entire communities have been at risk. Read about the risk of local flooding in the flood hazard section. Learn about protection and preparedness tips, what to do if flooding occurs, how to find out if one lives in a flood hazard area, and much more.

Keeping community members informed and educated about stormwater pollution and ways to protect local waterways is a best management practice in the City's Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP). Articles in *Stormwater Connections* typically address seasonal or current issues and cover at least one subject of interest to younger citizens.



Copies of the newsletter have been placed in the City Manager's Office. For more information, or additional copies of the newsletter, contact Public Information Specialist for the Stormwater Management Program, Kathy Eva, at

### **Eugene Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Releases First Annual Report**

The City of Eugene's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) has released its first annual report to the public. It presents the work accomplished by the BPAC during the first year of its existence as a committee, as well as work accomplished by others in the community towards achieving the goals of the City of Eugene Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategic Plan. This document provides information about the BPAC, a summary of the 2009 Eugene Walking and Biking Summit, and an up-to-date account on the Eugene Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategic Plan and recommendations for future action.



The BPAC was formed to help implement the Eugene Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategic Plan, and advise City staff, community organizations, and partners on implementation of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategic Plan. Additionally, the BPAC represents community and constituent interests in transportation

planning decisions, and provides feedback to staff on projects relating to walking and bicycling. BPAC meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, and members of the public are encouraged to attend. The annual report and more information about BPAC is available at [www.eugene-or.gov/bpac](http://www.eugene-or.gov/bpac). For more information about the report or BPAC, contact City of Eugene Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator Lee Shoemaker at 682-5471 or [lee.shoemaker@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:lee.shoemaker@ci.eugene.or.us).

### **New, Improved Leaf Program Hits Streets**

A new and improved fall 2009 leaf program is up and running. The City's formal leaf collection program begins November 2, although crews are already working to clean priority bike lanes. Here's the schedule for the first round of collections (unimproved streets are collected during the second round):

- November 2 - 11 -- Central and West Eugene
- November 9 - 30 -- North Eugene
- November 30 - December 18 -- Southeast Eugene
- December 14 - 24 -- Southwest Eugene

The 2009 operational changes to the decades-old program are intended to improve safety for cyclists while continuing to provide leaf collection services to local residents, keep leaves out of local waterways and minimize the number of leaf-related flooding incidents.

Here's a summary of the changes made to-date:

- Public Works Maintenance purchased a new leaf vacuum, dedicated to maintaining 25 miles of priority bike routes in Eugene. The City has worked with local cyclists to identify approximately 25 miles of priority on-street bike lanes in Eugene. The Public Works Maintenance Division has increased the frequency of sweeping on these streets with a goal of keeping these high priority routes as clean as possible.
- Several additional maintenance workers have been assigned to leaf duty, with a primary focus on cleaning priority bike routes, inspecting routes and communicating with residents as needed.
- A new website has been created at [www.eugene-or.gov/leaf](http://www.eugene-or.gov/leaf). The website includes an interactive, easy-to-use, map-based form so residents can report problems with leaves in bike lanes. The information is fed into the Public Works maintenance management system so crews can quickly evaluate and respond to problems. The website includes an automated map that shows where priority bike lanes have been cleaned in the past several days. There's also an online form to request home delivery of leaves.
- A robust outreach program has been underway for several weeks. Outreach materials have included postcards sent to



more than 1,600 residents whose properties are adjacent to curbside bike lanes and to dozens of area landscapers and yard-service owners. The postcards remind people to not place leaves in bike lanes and offer alternatives such as using yard-debris containers or composting leaves on site. Public Works also has produced a 30-second video PSA for local TV stations, placed messages on the back of LTD buses, and scheduled ads to run in local newspapers.

The response from the local bicycling community for the most part has been favorable. Staff continues to work with residents on viable alternatives that allow leaves and cyclists to co-exist. For more information, contact PWM Surface Operations Manager Eric Johnson at 682-4904 or [Eric.P.Johnson@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:Eric.P.Johnson@ci.eugene.or.us).



#### **Fire & EMS Receives Public Education Grant from Fireman's Fund Insurance**

Cody, Official Fire Safety Dalmatian of Eugene's Fire & EMS Department, will have additional resources for teaching fire safety skills to Eugene's young people, thanks to a \$7,500 no-match grant from Fireman's Fund Insurance. This is the second grant Fireman's Fund has awarded to the Cody Program; the first allowed the department to purchase a trailer to transport Cody's props and curriculum materials. The new grant will enable Cody and his owner and trainer, Deputy Fire Marshal Amy Linder, to purchase 10 traveling trunks pre-loaded with age-appropriate fire safety information that can be used for classroom teaching with or without Cody's presence. The grant will also provide for the purchase of a number of smoke alarms that will be carried on the City's fire engines and offered to local residents when fire crews identify a need. For more information, please contact Interim Fire Marshal Doug Perry at 682-5887.

#### **Planning Division Enhances Intern Program**

For over 20 years, the Planning & Development Department has been fortunate to provide real world opportunities to smart and motivated student interns. Over the past year, the Planning Division has increased the division's intern capacity, raising the program's visibility and generally strengthening it overall. As part of the Planning Division Intern Program, interns work in a professional office environment, receive mentoring from City staff, and most importantly, gain valuable professional experience from their work on a variety of planning-related projects.

In return, the program builds on City and school relationships, particularly with the University of Oregon's Planning, Public Policy, and Management Department and the School of Architecture and Allied Arts. In addition, this program allows Planning staff to build relationships with future planners while receiving much needed assistance on a variety of high priority projects. Given that the internship program is primarily volunteer-based, these services have been particularly valuable during these budget-tightening times.



This term, Planning Division interns have provided critical assistance with several priority projects, including Strategic Neighborhood Action Plans, Infill Compatibility Standards and Opportunity Sitting, and Walnut Station Mixed Use Center. For more information on the Planning Division Intern Program, see <http://www.eugene-or.gov/planningintern> or contact Heather O'Donnell via email at [heather.m.odonnell@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:heather.m.odonnell@ci.eugene.or.us), or by phone at 682-5488.

#### **Medics Prepare for Firefighter Role**

As one more means of controlling ambulance service costs, and in view of its new partnership with Rural/Metro Ambulance, the Fire & EMS Department has made the decision to discontinue the "90-series" single-role ambulance service, which had been provided during times of peak demand (basically daytimes and evenings) since 2002. To place the existing 90-series employees, the department offered these individuals – all women – the opportunity to enter into training to become regular firefighter/paramedics. Of seven eligible employees, six accepted and are currently undergoing training. Upon successful completion of firefighting training they will be assigned to fire stations on regular shift assignments. There they will serve in employee-in-transition status until they have met performance objectives established by the department.

The vacancies that these individuals will fill were created through normal attrition in the firefighter ranks. Here and elsewhere, firefighters are typically hired in groups in order to minimize training costs and provide adequate staffing flexibility.

Because the employees already have extensive medical training (all are full-fledged paramedics), the 13-week training will focus on fire suppression and rescue skills as well as physical conditioning. Only those candidates who meet the full slate of requirements for regular firefighter duty will be placed on the line.

The City Council will be provided with updates as the special academy progresses. For more information, please contact Fire & EMS Training Chief Joe Zaludek at 682-7103.

### **Climate and Energy Public Forums Continue**

Community members are invited to join a public forum on Thursday evening, November 5, to discuss **food and agriculture** issues as part of the public process supporting the Community Climate & Energy Action Plan. The forum is scheduled for 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. in the meeting rooms at EWEB, 500 East 4th Avenue. It's one of six topic-forums scheduled this fall and through March 2010. In early October, more than 60 participants attended a public forum on buildings and energy, providing critical input on actions which community members, governments, businesses and other organizations can take to better adapt and use to mitigate the impacts of climate change and rising fuel costs. To learn more, visit the Climate & Energy Action plan at [www.sustaineugene.com/eugeneclimate](http://www.sustaineugene.com/eugeneclimate) or contact City of Eugene Climate and Energy Action Coordinator Matt McRae at [matt.a.mcrae@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:matt.a.mcrae@ci.eugene.or.us) or 682-5864.



### **Medicare Info Workshops at Eugene Public Library**

It's Medicare enrollment time - and because circumstances may have changed since last year, it's recommended that all recipients review and evaluate their coverage. Where can seniors and their adult children find unbiased help?

Look to the friendly experts of Lane County Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance (SHIBA), a program of the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services. SHIBA's Marilyn Cabrera will lead a free information session at the Eugene Downtown Public Library on Tuesday, November 3, at 2:00 p.m. The session will be repeated on Tuesday, November 10, at 2:00 p.m.

SHIBA is available to help recipients select a Medicare prescription drug plan, find out if they are receiving all possible benefits, compare supplemental health insurance policies, review a bill, or file an appeal or complaint.

These free information sessions are co-sponsored by the Eugene Public Library, Willamalane Park and Recreation District, and SHIBA. For more information, contact the Library at 682-5450 or [www.eugene-or.gov/library](http://www.eugene-or.gov/library).

### **City Halloween Events are Fun for Young and Old Alike**

For the wee ones, Recreation Services' Youth and Family Program is holding the Booou Barn for ages 1 - 11, on October 30, 4:30 - 7:30 p.m., at Petersen Barn Community Center. The free event includes games, fall crafts and, more.

Recreation's Aquatics Program presents a Spooky Splash Dance for middle school students featuring dancing with a live D.J. and swimming in the pool. The event is from 7:45 - 9:45 p.m., October 30, at Echo Hollow Pool. Prizes will be awarded for best costume. The cost is \$3 per person.

Adults, age 50 and older, will enjoy a bewitching and delicious Halloween lunch on October 29, 11:59 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at Petersen Barn Community Center. Presented by Recreation's Adult and Senior Program, the event includes "scary, scary" stories and prizes awarded for the most creative attire. The cost is \$5. For more information about these events, contact Craig Smith at 682-5334.



### **Busting Immigration Myths**

On Sunday, November 8, the Human Rights Commission Education and Outreach Committee, is facilitating a community presentation and discussion to examine immigration myths and realities. The event is scheduled to occur from 3:00 -5:00 p.m. in the Bascom-Tykeson Room, at the Eugene Downtown Public Library. Education and Outreach Committee members believe understanding and awareness of issues, impacts and ideas about immigration are becoming increasingly critical in the Eugene community. This forum highlights one young woman's field studies in an academic program, "Roots and Routes of Migration."

The afternoon program will include a panel discussion with Sonia Lauer, joined by Immigrant Rights Advocacy Program Coordinator of *Amigos Multicultural Services Center*, Guadalupe Quinn, and Lynn Stephen of the University of Oregon *Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies*. "We learned everything from the reasons people migrate, to the history and economics behind migration, to the routes Mexicans and Central Americans use while migrating to the United States. In the program, we also traveled to the Mexico-Guatemalan border and north through Chiapas and Oaxaca. While in the program I spoke with a variety of people including a Scalabrini priest, a wall artist, border patrol agents, recently repatriated unauthorized residents, migrants making their way through Mexico and about to cross the US border, families of migrants, indigenous activists, Zapatistas, Mexican farmers, and organizations working for human rights and social justice. I learned so much on the border and I feel that I have a responsibility to share what I saw and experienced," says Ms. Lauer.

For more information, please contact Human Rights Analyst Holly LeMasurier of the City Manager's Office at [holly.k.lemasurier@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:holly.k.lemasurier@ci.eugene.or.us) or call 682-5619.

### **City Sponsors Free Training on Small House Design**

House sizes have more than doubled during the last 50 years, but smaller homes can often work just as well for significantly lower costs. A City-sponsored workshop will provide the opportunity to learn unique design concepts that challenge the notion that "bigger is better," and emphasize how to make efficient use of space. Participants will learn how to increase room functionality, create a spacious feeling in 1200 square feet, market to builders and future homeowners, and get a good return on their investments. Space is limited so people are encouraged to register soon.

**When:** Thursday, November 5: 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.  
**Where:** Tykeson Room, Eugene Downtown Library, 100 West 10th Avenue, Eugene  
**RSVP:** Visit <http://tiny.cc/RSVPhome> to register online  
**Cost:** FREE - Sponsored by City of Eugene

For more information, visit <http://tiny.cc/smallhome> or contact Brian D'Agostine at [Brian.D'Agostine@csgpr.com](mailto:Brian.D'Agostine@csgpr.com) or call 503-381-6102.

### **Habitat Enhancement Efforts Begin in New Area of Delta Ponds**

In July, the City of Eugene was awarded a \$1.642 million grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for the Delta Ponds Habitat Enhancement Project. This grant funding was made available by the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Grant-funded activities include the enhancement of 16.4 acres of degraded riparian habitat, the creation of 4.6 acres of new riparian and emergent wetland habitat, and the excavation of seven channels that will improve hydrologic connectivity between ponds.

This week, work began to remove large stands of non-native, invasive blackberry in areas east of Delta Highway. The City hired a local contractor, Walama Restoration Project, to implement this work. Walama will be clearing invasive species, including blackberry, ivy, and Scotch broom in this area throughout the fall. These 16.4 acres will be re-treated in 2010 and then planted with over 15,000 native trees and shrubs in the winter of 2010-11.



Workers begin to clear brush in Delta Ponds area

The riparian and wetland habitat creation and the hydrological connections that are also being funded by the NOAA grant will take place in 2010. Over the period of two years, the NOAA funding is expected to create or retain 63 jobs in Lane County.

For more information about the Delta Ponds Habitat Enhancement Project, please contact Natural Resources Enhancement Coordinator Lauri Holts at 682-4925.