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Annual Book Sale to Benefit Eugene Public Library

The annual Friends of Eugene Public Library Book Sale will be held Saturday, April 8, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Sunday, April 9, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at Lane Events Center (Fairgrounds) Performance Hall. Admission and parking are free.

Proceeds from this all-volunteer project go to support Eugene Public Library classes, programs, and events, including Summer Reading for children and teens.

Shoppers will be able to choose from thousands of gently-used and like-new books on all topics, at bargain prices of only $1.00 to $2.00. Also for sale will be DVDs, vinyl, audio books, sheet music, and music CDs.

Recent bestsellers will be available in the Good as New section, and collectors can check for rare and specialty books in Individually Priced. A Children's area will offer a large selection of books, DVDs, and CDs for kids. VISA/Mastercard will be accepted, as well as cash and checks.
The Book Sale is the Friends of Eugene Public Library's major fundraiser each year. Over 300 volunteers work on the Book Sale, many year-round.

For more information, contact Eugene Public Library at (541)682-5450 or Friends of Eugene Public Library at (541)484-1452.

Eugene Rec Summer Program Registration Begins on April 11

Registration for Eugene Rec's summer programs starts at 9 a.m. April 11. The Rec Guide is available now at GetRec.org. Eugene Rec offers a range of great programs for every kid and teen, with summer camps in aquatics, archery, arts and crafts, dance, fashion design, filmmaking, paddleboarding, rafting, robotics, skateboarding, tree climbing and much more.

There is also a wide range of Rec programs offered each week for kids, teens, adults and seniors. With classes ranging from painting to fitness to outdoor adventures, Eugene Rec offers something to be enjoyed by all. Information about the programs can be found online at GetRec.org.

“The Public Library: A Celebration in Photos” at Eugene Public Library
In honor of National Library Week, the Downtown Eugene Public Library will host a beautiful and inspiring illustrated talk, “The Public Library: A Celebration in Photos,” on Sunday, April 9, 2:00 p.m. Admission is free.

This presentation by Robert Dawson is based on his book, "The Public Library: A Photographic Essay." Over the last eighteen years, Dawson has traveled throughout the United States taking pictures of hundreds of public libraries, large and small, old and new, urban and rural, in poor communities and in wealthy ones.

See a wide selection of Dawson's photographs, from the majestic reading room at the New York Public Library to Allensworth, California's one-room Tulare County Free Library, built by people who were previously enslaved.

Dawson explores the nation’s vibrant, essential, and sometimes threatened library system as it undergoes profound changes in its identity and purpose, yet remains at the very heart of American civic life.

Says Toni Morrison, "Robert Dawson's work is an irrefutable argument for the preservation of public libraries. His book is profound and heartbreakingly beautiful."

As Bill Moyers notes in his forward to the book, "Robert Dawson shows us in this collection what is at stake: when a library is open, no matter its size and shape, democracy is open, too."

Books will be available for purchase and signing courtesy of the University of Oregon Duck Store. For more information, contact the Eugene Public Library at (541)682-5450.

TOP

FEMA Rep Applauds Eugene’s Ice Storm Response

Richard Mickel is an expert at paperwork. Outside of a few fact-finding meetings, his focus is reading, transcribing and converting documents, spreadsheets and receipts onto specific digital forms. All of that work eventually leads to a written report, and potentially a big payoff for agencies.

Mickel is a project specialist for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). He travels to areas hit hard by Mother Nature and then works with agencies to identify opportunities for damage reimbursement. For the last two months, Mickel has been in Eugene, focused on gathering details of the City of Eugene and the University of Oregon's recovery efforts following the December ice storm.
“My average day is sorting through spreadsheets from the UO and Public Works,” Mickel said. “My computer screen doesn’t handle it all. I go through and sort the information out and put it into a FEMA form.”

While the documentation and forms can be confusing and overwhelming, Mickel said one thing is clear: Public Works has done things the right way from day one.

“I can’t say enough about Eugene Public Works’ storm response.”

In the days and weeks following the storm, Mickel said the response was focused on doing the right thing at the time. Too often, he explained, organizations will do what they think will get reimbursed first, then go back and take care of the non-reimbursable tasks.

“I was impressed to see how crews were out clearing high-use trails in the days following the storm. Not many communities would be out on the trails that quickly because they’re typically not covered in this type of storm. In this case, the city knew people would want to be on the trails, and staff wanted to make sure they were safe.”

Eugene had a head start on December’s storm. The federal government declared a similar storm in 2014 as a disaster. Staff worked with FEMA representatives at the time to gather the right documents, often times spending hours getting all of the appropriate materials together. That experience, as well as emergency management preparation, helped to get Public Works ready for the December storm.

“All of the documentation is thorough and well crafted, including photographs and damaged tree locations,” said Mickel. “We’ve done site visits. Everything’s run very smoothly. When I call and ask for documentation it’s extensively given because it’s done.”

Mickel hopes to have all of the documentation and paperwork completed by early May, with a final report to the City before he leaves. In that report, he will explain why the City should get reimbursed for its trail-clearing work, among many other things. While it may take more paperwork to showcase these arguments, he says it’s worth it, because it rewards the City for doing the right thing for its residents, not just doing what’s expected.

“Being proactive, they’re taking care of their own business and being responsible for their community,” he said.

For more information contact Brian Richardson, Public Works Public Affairs Manager, at (541)682-5523.