



Laurel Hill Valley Citizens

N E W S L E T T E R

How Do You Envision Eugene?

By Jan Wostmann

One of the ways that Oregon is different from other states is that every Oregon city has an Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). This boundary is intended to protect the valuable farm and forest lands that surrounds most Oregon cities from thoughtless development. Every so often, cities go through the exercise of projecting their population growth for the next 20 years, and then assessing whether that growth can be accommodated within their current UGB. Eugene is in the middle of such an exercise, grandly called Envision Eugene. It has been underway since last summer. There have been a number of public meetings, and an advisory group of about 70 citizens, selected by the City Manager, has been meeting regularly to discuss what ought to be done. There are numerous documents on all aspects of Envision Eugene available at www.EnvisionEugene.org

The expected growth during the next two decades is estimated to be 33,900 people, who would require approximately 14,900 dwelling units, and space for additional industry, commerce and public infrastructure. This growth can be accommodated in basically two ways: changing the City's land use code to facilitate higher density development within the UGB, or expanding the UGB beyond its present boundaries. In all likelihood, both strategies will play a role, and each will have consequences for the Laurel Hill Valley.

Since our neighborhood has a larger proportion of undeveloped land than most, land use code changes that put more dwelling units on smaller lots would have a disproportionate affect on us. If, on the other hand, a strategy is adopted to intensify urban density in the downtown area and along major transportation corridors, as some have suggested, only the northern tip of our neighborhood would see major changes.

Similarly, one of the areas that is being considered for addition to the City's land supply is just over the ridge line from us to the south, between our valley and LCC. How this addition might affect us depends in large measure on whether roads serving it would connect to 30th Avenue, or cut through our valley and connect to Franklin.

The LHVC Executive Committee has decided that, due to the potentially large impacts to livability here in the valley, Envision Eugene will be the major topic for our Winter General Meeting. We have invited our City Councilor Alan Zelenka, the City Manager and/or the Planning Director to participate. This is a good opportunity for you to express your opinions about how you envision Eugene.

Other important dates:

February 3, Envision Eugene Open House, 4-7 pm,
North Eugene High School Library,
200 Silver Lane, off River Road

February 10, Envision Eugene Open House, 4-7 pm,
Roosevelt Middle School Cafeteria,
680 E 24th near Hilyard Street

February 22, Envision Eugene Public Hearing, 7:30 pm,
Council Chamber

February 28, City Council decides, 5:30 pm,
McNutt Room, 777 Pearl St.



Non-conformists are all alike.

Plan Ahead: LHVC Neighborhood Meetings

Spring Meeting
Summer Picnic
Fall Meeting

Wednesday, May 18th, 2011
A Sunday in August
Wednesday, November 16, 2011

ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD WINTER POTLUCK

by Johanna Mitchell and Deborah Kelly

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

Potluck begins at 6:30 pm - Meeting at 7:15 pm

The meeting will feature a speaker from the city's planning staff who will update us on Envision Eugene as well as give us a chance to ask questions and provide feedback. Envision Eugene may have large impacts on our valley. Please see the article below.

Also on the program, Stuart Kramer from Northwest Youth Corps will talk about CSA memberships available from their farm and we hope to have Alan Zelenka, our city councilor, with a city council update.

Special Meeting Location:

Comfort Suites

3060 E 25th Ave at Brackenfern Rd

(Near the intersection of Moon Mountain Drive and Laurel Hill Drive)

Phone: (541) 343-7000

We had such a wonderful gathering last year at Comfort Suites that we are repeating the event this year. The meeting room there makes a cozy dining room, with lovely seating arrangements.

Once again we gather to celebrate our neighborhood by sharing a meal together. This pot-luck meeting provides an opportunity to really talk to your neighbors in a relaxed atmosphere. This is one way that strong community bonds are built.

Please bring a potluck dish: it can be a warm casserole or a favorite dessert. One year we had some amazing soup. another year vegetarian lasagna. Do you remember that awesome chile? If you can provide a main dish, that will be especially appreciated. Ingredient labeling is requested to make participation safe for those who have food sensitivities.

We will have our usual reusable plates, cups, bowls, napkins, glasses and silverware so you don't need to bring your own place setting and we will be kind to the environment. Coffee and tea will be provided.

No time to cook? Please come and bring your appetite. We always have plenty to share.

Hope to see you there!



Northwest Youth Corps (on Augusta Street in our valley) is GROWING

It is NYC's goal to turn our current headquarters into a Center for Conservation Education, moreover we are dedicated to do it consciously and with the help of our community.

It is our goal to have:

Energy Efficiency. When we remodel our building we are going to do it sustainably. With the remodel, we will install energy efficient lights, windows and heating, allowing the organization to reduce utility bills and other operating costs-funds we can redirect to support our programs in other ways, such as youth stipends or scholarships.

Universal Access. This remodel will help NYC renovate our front entrance to ensure that our facility is accessible to youth and families of all abilities.

Community Access. As we improve the facility, especially ADA access, we will rent it out to community groups for conferences, trainings, and camps at affordable prices, with revenues to be reinvested in facility operations.

Space for Staff. Reconfiguration of the old Laurel Hill School library's floor plan (NYC's current headquarters) will allow the organization to double our number of individual work stations, and increase staff collaboration within the building's original footprint which will provide a better experience to our youth.

Established in 1984, Northwest Youth Corps is a non-profit organization whose mission is to create leaders through teamwork, education, and outdoor conservation work experiences. NYC is the region's largest and oldest outdoor conservation and youth education program, and serves youth from all backgrounds. For additional information, contact Liz Karas at phone (541) 349-5055, or visit www.northwestyouthcorps.org

Job Openings at Northwest Youth Corps

by Liz Karas, NWYC

Are you getting restless for some fresh mountain air?
Are your feet starting to get the itch for some trail?
Interested in a job where you are paid to work and play in the outdoors?

Well it is time for you to
Get Out
Get Active
And
Get Paid

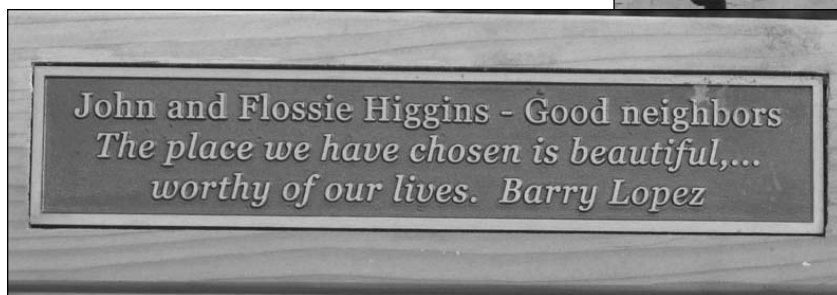
Northwest Youth Corps is proud to announce we are now accepting applications for full time year round staff, youth position, and field staff positions.

See our website www.NorthwestYouthCorps.org for more information or call 541 349 5055.

Commemorative Bench

by Deborah Kelly

Thanks to all the people who contributed time and money to make this happen, we now have a lovely bench in Laurel Hill Park which honors Flossie Higgins and her life here in the Laurel Hill Valley for the last 66 years.



View of Laurel Hill Park from the Commemorative Bench

This is the official newsletter of the Laurel Hill Valley Citizens. Funds for the printing and mailing of newsletters are provided by the City of Eugene. Newsletters are produced by neighborhood volunteers and are free to residents and businesses of the neighborhood. Space is available for letters to the editor or articles from neighbors and will be published as space permits. The information provided and the views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent the position of the City of Eugene or the Laurel Hill Valley Citizens.

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I went to the museum where they had all the heads and arms from the statues that are in all the other museums.

Steven Wright



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Visit Neighborhoods on the Web:
www.eugene-or.gov/neighborhoods

LHVC Winter Potluck! Weds. Feb 16

Update on the Sound Wall

by Deborah Kelly

I checked in with the appropriate officials for an update on the sound wall that ODOT has been building at the north end of the Laurel Hill Valley. I was told that the new sound wall is essentially complete, with the exception of some final sealing. The landscaping probably won't be complete until Spring due to weather constraints and planning to give the new plants the best chance to establish themselves there. I've been taking photos of the wall in progress and a few of these are included here.



Laurel Hill Valley Citizens is Eugene's oldest neighborhood organization, chartered by the City Council in 1974. General Meetings are held quarterly to learn about and discuss issues relating to the quality of life in our neighborhood. The LHVC Executive Committee meets at other times to discuss and represent the interests of the neighborhood. For more information: Sandy Tilcock, LHVC Chair, 541-465-9079, stilcock@gmail.com. Please send comments about this newsletter to Deborah Kelly, newsletter editor, at dskharp@yahoo.com.

www.lhvc.org