



Laurel Hill Valley Citizens

N E W S L E T T E R



Spring Neighborhood Meeting

6:30pm Plant, Seed, and Tool Exchange

7:00pm Meeting on Wednesday May 15th, 2013

at Northwest Youth Corps, 2621 Augusta Street



Speakers: This neighborhood meeting features speakers on two main subjects plus a couple of updates. To continue the Spring growing theme, Linda Davies from Winter Green farm will tell us about their CSA program. If you're not familiar with these Community Supported Agriculture programs it's a chance to sign up with a farm to receive a weekly box of wonderful local produce. Winter Green Farm grows organic vegetables, fruits and herbs in Noti, Oregon. They've been here since 1980 and have offered CSA shares since 1991. Ruby Larson will tell us about the Doorstep Grocer which is based in the Laurel Hill Valley, and the Northwest Youth Corps will have information available about their farm and CSA programs.

There will also be two speakers on opposite sides of the ballot issue asking for a new city fee. Each will have five minutes to talk and five minutes to answer questions. In addition, we are expecting Alan Zelenka, our city councilor, to make a brief report about items that the city council has been addressing recently. If there is anything new about developments in our neighborhood there will be an update on that as well.

6:30 Garden Exchange: Please bring any gardening tools that you are no longer using, any seeds or seedlings you can spare, spring cuttings, bulbs, and plastic or ceramic pots. Any garden supplies or related items will be appreciated. Then you can take home any of the offerings that others have brought. Share any over abundance from your yard with your neighbors and find some new treasures for your garden.

Please label your contributions to make it easy for people to recognize each item. Notes about care, such as whether a plant needs lots of sun or good drainage, how far apart plants or seeds should be planted, or any other guidance would be very helpful. Also, if your offerings have not been adopted by someone else by the time the meeting ends, please be considerate of our hosts at NYC and don't leave them there.

Development News

As of the newsletter deadline, the final set of plans for the **LaurelRidge PUD** has not yet been submitted to the City. The most recent site plan we have is the one shown to us by the developer on March 14, 2013. It can be seen at <http://www.lhvc.org/laurelridge.html> along with notes from that meeting.

To be added to the email list for news about this development as we receive it, please contact Stephanie Midkiff, smidkiff2004@yahoo.com.

The **Landmark Development news** is that the developer cancelled the meeting they had called to discuss this with our neighborhood after receiving feedback from third-party consultants that the site plan as currently proposed is likely not feasible.



Opinion Page



Measure 20-211 in the current election has strong voices on both sides of the issue. Here are arguments, from Eugene Cares (in favor) and from Citizens for Truth, Justice, and the American Way (against).

Unlike most of Eugene's working folks, the City's revenues have grown throughout the recession. Even so, they are spending taxpayers money on non-priority activities instead of funding essential services. And now, City leaders have put an extremely regressive, permanent, flat tax on the ballot.

The fee would cost each household \$120 a year, and businesses \$360. Rich mansion dwellers would pay the same as pensioners in apartments. Multinational corporations would pay the same as small businesses.

Like you, we value the services threatened by city cuts. But council has proposed funding those services for ONE YEAR ONLY, if the fee passes. Beyond 2014, fee revenue would be reassigned to a vast array of different purposes at the will of the current or any future councils.

The money is there. The city habitually underestimates revenue during July budget adoption and then scrambles to spend the "unanticipated" revenue at December's reconciliation. In 2011 it was \$5.1 million, in 2012 it was \$4.7 million. But they aren't spending it on essential services, instead diverting it to private developers, a slush fund for a new city hall, and redundant planning "processes."

City Hall also maintains year-end General Fund balances twice what is needed for a safe cushion. In 2011 it was \$47 million, in 2012 - \$43 million, more than enough to fill the alleged "gap."

Should various low-priority activities be funded at the expense of sacrificing essential services? Urge city leadership to fund essential services first - and vote NO on Ballot measure 20-211.

www.votenocityfee.org

Eugene Cares is a coalition of citizens, local businesses and community groups. We believe that passing Measure 20-211—the proposed Eugene City Service Fee—is essential to the conscience and vitality of our community.

In these hard economic times, our community has made difficult but necessary sacrifices, tightening its fiscal belt by \$25 million and 100 jobs. Eugene has faced tough times and made tough choices to keep our fiscal house in order. The Eugene City Fee is a last resort—not first.

The \$10 per month collected from each household safeguards basic homeless and mental health services, preserves essential fire department and public safety functions, and retains institutions that attract growth in our community.

Funds collected from the proposed fee are exclusively allocated to institutions and services that protect our most vulnerable and benefit Eugene's working families. Its passage prevents staff reductions in the police and fire departments, the elimination of Bethel and Sheldon library branches, the removal of critical mental health services and the closure of Sheldon Pool. In line with our commitment to protect working families, the measure includes special provisions for low-income households.

On May 21, we will determine whether Eugene continues to care for its most vulnerable citizens. We will save or kill Bethel and Sheldon branch libraries. We will either maintain or reduce our force of first responders at Whiteaker Fire Station. We will vote to shore up some dollars or shutter Sheldon Pool.

For more information, or to get involved, please visit www.eugenecares.org.



Neighborhood Picnic

Our very popular neighborhood picnic at Laurel Hill Park will take place on Sunday, August 18th. This year the neighborhood association will supply desserts and drinks and will coordinate activities for children. If you'd like to help with the picnic please contact one of the executive committee members listed below.

You Can Represent our Neighborhood on the NLC Sustainability Committee

The Eugene Neighborhood Leaders Council (NLC) is an all volunteer, non-governmental, advocacy organization focused on making Eugene a great place to live by strengthening Eugene neighborhoods. The charge of the NLC Committee on Sustainability (eugenesustainability.org) is threefold: 1) to provide a city-wide forum for the exchange of ideas and recommendations for more sustainable practices within neighborhoods; 2) to create recommendations for implementing such practices that can be distributed to all neighborhood associations as well as to the NLC; and 3) to foster connections among the NLC, neighborhood associations and community groups for promoting sustainable practices.

The COS has been active for over five years and is best known for organizing green bike tours during the summertime. Over the past five years, they have led over 35 bike tours in ten of Eugene's neighborhoods, with over 500 people attending. They also organize the Green Neighbors Fair and are regulars at the Good Earth Green Home Show. LHV's member of this group moved out of state. If you're interested, email Jan Spencer at [janspencer\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:janspencer(at)gmail.com).

Laurel Hill Valley Citizens Neighborhood Executive Committee

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Neighborhood Use of the NYC Building

by Natalie Whitson

Northwest Youth Corps is happy to support the Laurel Hill Valley Citizens neighborhood association by providing meeting space free of charge six times a year and providing other items such as table usage and restroom access during the annual picnic. In an effort to clarify LHVC sponsored events and establish a better working relationship, NYC staff recently met with the LHVC Executive board and invited them to propose a list of neighborhood sponsored events, such as Bingo or Movie night, which NYC could host (without a rental fee) as a courtesy to the neighborhood over the coming year.

In addition, NYC is happy to make its newly renovated facility available to neighbors and others at a modest price. All rental revenue supports the renovation of our building into an energy-efficient and environmentally-friendly campus, as well as helps cover the costs of heating, lights, clean-up afterwards, etc. Please email [nataliew\(at\)nwyouthcorps.org](mailto:nataliew(at)nwyouthcorps.org) to discuss the facility needs of your next gathering, meeting, or event or to get a price quote.



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Policy statement: 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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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 see our website at www.lhvc.org or contact Sandy Tilcock, LHVC chair, 541-465-9079, stilcock@gmail.com
You can also email LaurelHillValleyCitizens@gmail.com