



February 2009

Laurel Hill Valley Citizens

N E W S L E T T E R

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February General Meeting Features Potluck, Media and Book Swap

by Rich Hazel and Johanna Mitchell

This month's General Meeting will take place February 19 at Northwest Youth Corps, 2621 Augusta. Come celebrate our neighborhood by sharing a meal together at the annual potluck at 6:30. Coffee, tea, and juice will be provided. Neighbors should bring an entrée, salad, side or dessert. Please bring a label for your ready-to-serve dish with its name and important information: vegetarians and those of us with allergies to nuts, wheat or dairy will thank you. If you can't manage to prepare something in time, please come anyway; there's always plenty to go around! We will have our usual and reusable plates, cups, bowls, napkins, glasses and silverware.

Our previous book swaps have been so successful that we are expanding to other forms of entertainment. Bring any books, CDs VHS tapes or DVDs you would like to pass on. We will have tables available for donations. If you have children, ask them to choose a few items they might be willing to part with and bring them along. You can choose from all the free things donated by your neighbors. This is a great way to foster relationships with the people in your neighborhood, reduce your clutter and find a few new titles to entertain you. All unclaimed items will be donated to the Eugene Public Library.

Autumn Meeting Synopsis

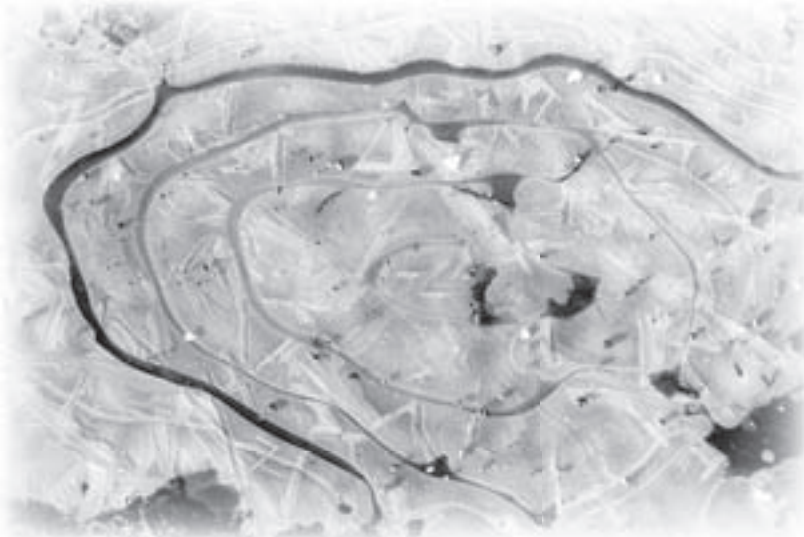
For those of you who were unable to attend November's meeting:

White Bird Clinic's David Zeiss spoke about CAHOOTS: Crisis Assistance Helping Out on the Streets. CAHOOTS is a van-based crisis intervention team integrated into the City of Eugene's public safety system. Free response is available for a broad range of non-criminal crises including intoxication, disorientation, substance abuse and mental illness problems, and dispute resolution. At the meeting Zeiss responded to questions about the service and situations where CAHOOTS can help. CAHOOTS dispatch can be reached by calling the Eugene Police non-emergency number: 682-5111.

Linda Kelly, Agency Relations for Food for Lane County, spoke in conjunction with the LHVC food drive at the meeting. FFLC is the only food bank in Lane County that is part of the Oregon Food Bank, a network of 20 food banks in the state. Neighbors donated a total of 157 pounds of food to FFLC at the meeting.

Councilman Alan Zelenka talked briefly about the November passage of the City's \$37 million, 5-year street bond measure. There were a number of questions from the audience including: "Why is smooth Augusta on the repair list while potholed Riverview is not?". Zelenka explained the Public Works Pavement Preservation philosophy of repairing cracking and other minor problems before major (and expensive) reconstruction is needed. No money is spent on "unimproved" streets such as Riverview, other than patching deep potholes.

Ice in a Riverview Pothole
Photo by Sandy Tilcock



Executive Committee Elections Increase Size Of Board By One

Balloting at the November meeting resulted in the re-election of Executive Committee incumbents Jake Bradshaw, Elise Ferrarese, Rich Hazel, Betty Hosokawa, Johanna Mitchell, and Sandy Tilcock. Also elected to the "ExCom" was neighbor Deborah Kelly.

Executive Committee members guide activities and actions for LHVC and are elected annually. Committee officers serve two year terms. The positions of Co-Chair Jan Wostmann, Treasurer Betty Hemmingsen, and Secretary Stephanie Midkiff will be voted on in November 2009.

Some members of the Committee, including Co-Chair Wostmann, have announced they will not seek another term. Neighbors are encouraged to come to meetings and get involved so they might feel comfortable running for election in the future. Apart from the ExCom, volunteer opportunities also are available to spearhead individual projects within the neighborhood, such as working on the summer picnic, coordinating neighborhood work parties, and organizing new initiatives.

Second Neighborhood Summit

by Jan Wostmann

In February of 2007, the first Neighborhood Summit was held at the Lane County Fairgrounds. The LHVC Executive Committee attended, and along with other neighborhoods and members of the City Council, we discussed and prioritized an Action Plan that has guided Eugene's Neighborhood Services program for the past two years.

On March 7th, neighborhoods will again meet with other neighborhoods, elected officials and City department heads to discuss our neighborhoods and the Neighborhood Services program. The committee organizing the Second Neighborhood Summit has selected "Collaborating for a Livable Eugene" as this year's theme. The summit will be at the Lane County Fairgrounds, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and LHVC will be represented by the members of our Executive Committee.

We will take some time at our February 19th neighborhood meeting to get your thoughts on what the service priorities ought to be for the Laurel Hill Valley. Please give some thought to what would make our lives in this neighborhood better and how those needs could be addressed, either by the City, through neighborhood action, or perhaps some other way.



Resources Are Available for Neighbors In Need

by Sandy Tilcock

At our November general meeting we had a presentation from *FOOD For Lane County*. It was helpful to learn more about the organization and all that they do for providing food for those who are in need. However, we never really addressed how someone accesses helping services. I never gave it much thought until a neighborhood friend became one of those in need. Having been unemployed for several months and experiencing medical expenses, she found herself reaching out to some of us. Several neighbors were able to help out directly, and the experience also led us to explore how one accesses resources in the community. This is a difficult time for those who may find themselves without work for the first time, or otherwise stressed and uncertain where to turn. I would like to share with you three resources we found particularly useful.

SAINT VINCENT DEPAUL. These are some of the services they offer to meet immediate needs and help prevent further crises: Utility assistance, rental assistance, furniture, clothing, prescription medicines, appliances, beds, food boxes, and emergency transportation.

Hours of Operation:

10:00 am to 4:00 pm, M, T, Th, F

Closed Wednesday and daily from 12:30 to 1:30 for lunch

Phone: 541-689-6747

Address: Richard W. Lindholm Center, 456 Highway 99 North, Eugene, OR 97402

Program Manager: Roxann O'Brien

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES OF LANE COUNTY, INC. The Community Service Centers are where basic human needs are met. Shelter, food boxes, access to public transportation, rent and utility assistance, advocacy, information and referrals are administered through staff at their sites. The Eugene Community Service Center's hours and location are:

Hours of Operation:

10:00 am to 3:00 pm, M W F

10:00 am to 4:00 pm, T Th

Closed daily from 12:00 to 12:30

Phone: 541-345-3642

Address: 1095 W. 7th Avenue, Eugene, OR 97402

Food Room Hours of Operation: 11am to 3pm MWF

OREGONHELPS.ORG is a multilingual web-based tool that checks eligibility for 12 Oregon social service programs simultaneously. It assists citizens who want to privately and confidentially check their potential eligibility before doing the application paperwork.

Let's all do what we can for our neighbors and friends in need while we weather this difficult economic time. This can also mean providing odd jobs (dog walking, yard work, housekeeping, etc.) for those who need to earn extra money. It is amazing what we can accomplish once we begin networking.

Bridge Project Affects More Than Just Roads

by Rich Hazel

The Oregon Department of Transportation begins construction of the I-5 bridge replacement over the Willamette River this summer as contractors seek to complete some early work activities during the limited in-water work period prior to November. Many of these early activities will be relatively discrete; more obvious construction activities start in 2010.

One of the very obvious construction items is a proposed sound wall near the corner of 16th and Augusta. The planned wall will be located along the ramp that connects Franklin Boulevard to I-5 southbound, will be several hundred feet long, and will be very, very tall.

The new bridge will have an elevation several feet higher than its predecessor. This will require the re-alignment of connecting ramps, including the Franklin feeder. The ramp, currently several feet higher than neighboring Augusta Street, will be raised six to eight feet with the new design. A soundwall will likely extend 15-20 feet above the new road surface. Altogether, the soundwall is likely to tower 30 feet or more above the neighborhood street. While some neighbors will certainly appreciate a reduction of the constant roar from the busy Interstate, others have expressed concern about a new neighborhood Great Wall.

In another bridge-related development, work to restore the Glenwood Slough to a more natural state may block neighborhood access to the River Paths. The slough currently provides some winter drainage

from the Laurel Hill Valley to the Willamette River. Many years ago a culvert was installed under the Union Pacific railroad tracks to carry water to a concrete channel that had replaced the natural watercourse. Restoration plans being developed with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife call for sealing culverts and removing the concrete channel. The addition of fish-passable step-pools at the railroad embankment would necessitate the relocation of the South Bank bike path. The path currently passes to the south of the concrete channel but this plan would relocate it to the north side. This relocation of the South Bank Path may affect neighborhood access to it by a well-used demand path.

Well-used may be an understatement, as the unofficial route from the north end of Riverview to the South Bank Path is so distinct it can be seen in the satellite images of Google Earth. The connection shortens neighborhood access to the river by nearly a mile, but crosses the railroad tracks to do so. This crossing creates what

has been called "an attractive nuisance" and may be looked upon by the Union Pacific as a liability. The demand path may be relocated, or it may be blocked altogether, dependent on agency decisions and neighborhood involvement.

Neighbors are encouraged to voice their opinions on these matters at scheduled

Department of Transportation Open Houses, and by sending comments to LHVC representative Rich Hazel. Open House dates and times will be publicized at the website WillametteBridge.org. Comments for Rich can be sent to rhazelr@yahoo.com.



Northwest Youth Corps Update

by Natalie Whitson

Spring and Summer opportunities now available at Northwest Youth Corps. Earn a non-taxable education stipend of up to \$1400 (for a six-week program), for working in the serenity of the forest, the beauty of a mountainside, or right alongside a stream. Plus earn high school credit and memories for a life time. Please send your son, daughter, grandson/daughter, niece, nephew, or neighbor to our office at 2621 Augusta Street, or have them check out www.nwyouthcorps.org.

Campus update. This year, thanks to community donations, NYC is planning to completely renovate our community restrooms to make them more energy efficient and accessible to all! NYC is also in the very earliest stages of planning for a walking path around the NYC campus that will be open to the neighbors. Due to continuing vandalism, NYC is exploring whether to install a fence on the NYC property. Stay tuned for more details.

Farm improvements. This spring, neighbors can expect to see a new and improved farmstand gazebo at the Laurel Valley Educational Farm. NYC is also building an extension onto the existing greenhouse to increase our space for growing and teaching. NYC also plans to continue its very successful CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) program, weekly farmstand sales, and other activities. Best yet, the Farm is getting its very own page on the NYC website, where you can find out the latest about

weekly specials, recipes using fresh produce, upcoming community workshops, and too many details to mention. More information will be available during the LHVC community meeting Nov. 19 at NYC. We also welcome community members who want to volunteer in the farm. Check us out beginning in February, beginning on the NYC homepage www.nwyouthcorps.org. If you want to sign up for a garden plot, CSA box, or to volunteer, email us at GaryD@northwestyouthcorps.org or AngelaA@northwestyouthcorps.org

Get the latest NYC news, events, and information conveniently delivered right to your e-mail in-box every other month. NYC's eNews includes the latest information about YouthCorps, OutDoor High School, YouthWorks, and AmeriCorps, alumni information and events, what's happening around the Northwest Youth Corps campus, and opportunities. To sign up, email news@northwestyouthcorps.org with the subject line Get NYC eNews. Thanks!

Policy Statement: This is the official newsletter of Laurel Hill Valley Citizens. Newsletters are published and mailed courtesy of 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 and editorial comments from neighbors. All signed letters will be published as space permits. Editorials express the author's views, not the position of the Neighborhood Association, the City's elected officials, or City staff.



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

UPCOMING LHVC MEETINGS

2009 Executive Committee Meetings

Eugene Korean Seventh-Day Adventist Church on Riverview

April 9

July 9

October 8

2009 General Meetings

Winter Meeting

February 19, 7 pm

Preceded by potluck at 6:30 pm

Northwest Youth Corps on Augusta

Spring Meeting

May 21, 7 pm

Eugene Korean Seventh-Day Adventist Church
2335 Riverview

Summer Meeting

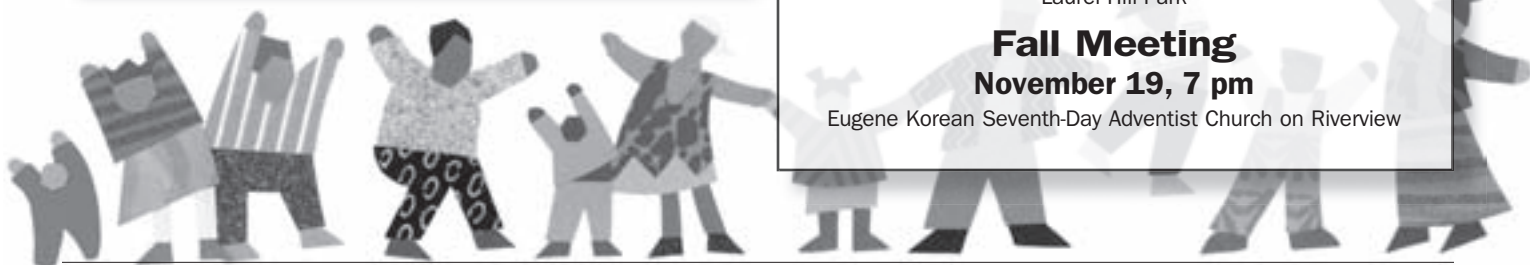
Picnic, August (Date to be announced)

Laurel Hill Park

Fall Meeting

November 19, 7 pm

Eugene Korean Seventh-Day Adventist Church on Riverview



Editor: Rich Hazel. Guest Editor: Elise Ferrarese. Please send letters, articles, comments and concerns to rhazelr@yahoo.com
Newsletter design by LHVC neighbor Katherine Getta, www.gettadesign.com

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: Jan Westmann, LHVC Co-Chair, 485-1394, jw@efn.org

www.lhvc.org