

Laurel Hill Valley Citizens Newsletter

Fall General Meeting

Thursday, November 18, 1999

7:30 p. m.

Eugene Community Church
2335 Riverview St.

Agenda

- 7:30 Introductions and Announcements
- 7:40 The Bookmobile Returns
- 7:55 Moon Mountain Report
- 8:20 Report from our City Councilor
- 8:30 Renovating Laurel Hill Park
- 9:00 Adjourn

The Bookmobile Returns

by Jan Wostmann

Do you remember when the Eugene Library Bookmobile stopped in the Laurel Hill Valley? It has been quite a few years, but many

Appeals Are Filed Against the Son Blaze Village Decision

by Jake Bradshaw

On September 20, the Hearings Official issued her decision on the Planned Unit Development proposed by Blazer Construction. She approved the application with numerous conditions. Ten days later, Laurel Hill Valley Citizens filed an appeal of her decision with the Eugene Planning Commission. The appeal identified 24 issues on which we felt that the Hearings Official erred in her findings. The decision was also appealed by the Oregon Department of Transportation, and by the two local businesses, Glenwood Star and Denny's. A public hearing on the three appeals was held on October 19, 1999 at Harris Hall. Four speakers presented the testimony on behalf of Laurel Hill Valley Citizens. Thanks go out to these speakers; we appreciate their efforts to represent us. They did an excellent job of presenting our issues in a thoughtful, concise manner. Their testimony showed how the specific requirements of the Eugene Code, of the South Hills Study, and of the Laurel Hill Plan were not met.

The neighborhood's appeal issues covered four general areas. The concerns presented were the same as they have been from the beginning of the process. These areas include the lack of public services such as adequate streets available at the site, and the lack of enforceable natural resource preservation. Presenters also testified about how the scale, bulk and height of the development would dominate the hillside, and about several violations in the public process, which made fair consideration of neighborhood concerns impossible.

neighbors still mention that they miss the bi-weekly Bookmobile service. Recently, Angel Jones became the new director of Eugene's Library, Recreation and Cultural Services Department. She invited neighborhood leaders to tell her how that department could better serve the city's neighborhoods. "How about returning the Bookmobile service to the Laurel Hill Valley?", we asked. Angel contacted the Bookmobile's manager, and to make a long story short, starting in January the Bookmobile will again stop here. However, it is a pilot project, which will continue after next May, only if enough neighbors use the service. Those of you who answered the opening question with a yes, probably also remember that we lost the service because patronage dropped below what the library considers necessary to justify a stop. So it's up to us to show that we appreciate this opportunity. A library staff person will be at our meeting to explain the pilot program, and to discuss possible neighborhood locations for the stop.

**Hendricks Park
Department Advisory Committee
Open House**

**Wednesday, November 17, 1999
7-9 p.m.
Edison Elementary School
1328 East 22nd Avenue, Eugene**

The Hendricks Park Department Advisory Committee has been working for more than a year to prepare a management plan for Eugene's first park. Please join the committee members as they present the management plan and take comments.

Additional information about the management plan recommendations will be provided at the meeting. For more information, please contact Kristi Morris at (541) 682-4800, or on the Internet at ww.ci.eugene.or.us/parks.

The Planning Commission will conduct two work sessions to consider whether the Hearings Official erred in her findings. They can uphold the findings, they can overturn the findings, or they can amend them. The Planning Commission's decision can then be appealed to LUBA (Land Use Board of Appeals) at the State level. This level of appeal becomes more costly because a legal firm must present the neighborhood's case. By the time this article is printed we will know the outcome of the Planning Commission's decision. Discussions will be underway as to whether we will proceed with a LUBA appeal. Stay tuned and informed!

Our gratitude goes out to all of the members of the Moon Mountain Development Committee for their tireless efforts to evaluate and monitor this PUD application. Their professional approach speaks well of our neighborhood's public involvement. They have done a superb job. Thanks also to those of you who have shown your support through contributions or attendance at the public hearings (or both). It really is great to see the neighbors present at the public hearings!

Renovating Laurel Hill Park

by Jan Westmann

On October 4th, Eugene Park Maintenance staff held a workshop in the valley to discuss their plans for renovating our park. About two dozen neighbors attended the workshop. Most of the time was spent discussing where the new playground should be located. The initial site plan put the playground close to the southwest corner of the park. A few neighbors who live adjacent to that area expressed an interest in moving the proposed playground to the northwest corner. Other neighbors liked the location suggested by the Park's staff. After some debate, the staff agreed to analyze a compromise location, which would be just south of the mushroom. The Park's staff will present the results of their analysis at our fall general meeting. They will be asking us if the trade-offs that result from moving the playground location are acceptable to the majority of neighborhood residents.

What's Up at NYC?

by Art Pope

The last field program of the year just graduated 57 teenage youth. Despite the cold nights, hard work, and rigors of camping out for five straight weeks, this program attained a successful completion rate of 90%!

This fall we saw our first group of 20 AmeriCorps members complete their one-year term of service. In September, we were joined by eight new members who will work with our OutDoor School program, and two new garden coordinators. Soon these folks will be joined by another six AmeriCorps members who will be accepting assignments in other NYC program areas.

Sometime soon we hope to have a Northwest Youth Corps sign in front of the facility. We are looking for a rustic, natural look that is low-profile and blends into a tier of natural landscaping set off by a natural rock border. The sign itself would be a large log, flattened on one side, with lettering attached. We are still very much working on design details. If you have concerns or would like more information, give Natalie Whitson a call at 349-7505.

**First Ever
Laurel Hill Valley Holiday Bazaar
Saturday, December 11th
2621 Augusta St.**

**(at NYC, the old Laurel Hill School) Shop for some truly
unique, beautiful zany, & altogether delightfully original
gifts.**

Holiday Season Ahead

by Bonnie Rering

Attention all you folks who hate shopping and driving to the malls and who get frustrated and tired at the thought of finding a parking space! The Laurel Hill Valley elves are planning a First Ever Laurel Hill Valley Holiday Bazaar for Saturday, December 11, at 2621 Augusta Street (the old Laurel Hill School building, now NYC). Walk to the Bazaar, meet your friends and neighbors, and shop for some truly unique, beautiful, zany, and delightfully original gifts, hand crafted by your unbelievably talented neighbors. Get your shopping done without driving all over town, relax and help your neighborhood stay out of the red ink, all at the same time. Anyone interested in helping out at the Bazaar or in making crafts (fun, easy!), please contact Bonnie Rering at 686-1857.

Neighborhood Stormwater Management Plan

by Betty Hemmingsen

As a Laurel Hill Valley resident, you are probably already aware of our stormwater problem. But did you know that the City is addressing this subject? The existing stormwater system was designed primarily to control floods. A new stormwater management strategy is needed to protect water quality and stormwater-related natural resources.

City staff and a group of determined volunteers on the Eugene Stormwater Management Department Advisory Committee ("DAC") developed a plan to protect key waterways. After identifying the negative impacts on open waterways and associated wetlands and riparian areas, they defined key waterways based on a nine-point criteria. They drafted a multi-phase Natural Resources Policy to protect key waterways and maintain them in a free and open channel

condition:

- 1) Identify and prevent key waterways from being filled and piped.
- 2) Prevent key waterways from being encroached upon in vacant areas by establishing buffer-setback provisions for new development.

Some of the identified key waterways are in our neighborhood, and we are supporting the proposed Natural Resources Policy. The City Council scheduled an October 27 work session on this topic, with a public hearing November 22. A drop-in session for affected property owners will be November 9; time and place will be announced later. You may obtain more information about the Policy at the stormwater management website www.ci.eugene.or.us/pw/storm/DAC, or by contacting Therese Walch, Project Manager, 682-6839. Save our streams!

Canine Corner

Help your neighbors love your dog as much as you do.
Please Control barking (especially between the hours of 10 p.m. and 8 a.m.) and adequately restrain aggressive dogs.
The Laurel Hill Valley is a dog friendly neighborhood.
Let's help keep it that way!

Community Garden Update

On October 24th, the garden was put to bed with a Harvest Party, with NYC staff and neighbors celebrating the first season of the garden. If you have any questions about the community garden or would like to volunteer, please call our new AmeriCorps Community Garden Coordinators, Starr Farris and Jena Price at 349-5055, ext. 241.

Comments, Letters to the Editor, and news articles are welcome. Send them to [Laurel Hill Valley Citizens](#)

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Volume 1999, Number 4*

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