



Laurel Hill Valley Citizens

N E W S L E T T E R



Fall Neighborhood Meeting, Election and Food Drive

7 - 8:30pm Wednesday, November 20th, 2019
at Northwest Youth Corps, Columbia Room
2621 Augusta Street



Featured Presentation: Wildfire Safety and Defensible Space in the Laurel Hill Valley

by Alex Do

Wildfires? Why are we talking about wildfires during the rainy season? Did you know that there are on average 1,000 wildfires every year in Oregon, 80% of which are human caused? That County Hazard assessment maps show land near Moon Mountain as being rated "very high" for fire hazard?

LHV resident Alex Do attended a Wildfire Community Preparedness Event hosted by the City of Eugene earlier this year and will be sharing a summary of the key takeaways. Other contributors to the event included Oregon Department of Forestry, Eugene Springfield Fire District, Oregon State University Extension, Northwest Youth Corps, and the City of Eugene's Parks & Open Space and Urban Forestry departments.

As a resident and homeowner, there are simple things you can do to help reduce our overall neighborhood risk of wildfire, and Fall/Winter is a great time of year to perform these activities at the same time as dealing with Fall leaves and landscape maintenance.

Alex's summary and discussion will cover these topics:

- Wildfire risks in South Eugene
- Emergency services home identification and access
- Simple things you can do to reduce fire hazards and improve defensible space on your property
- Resources for defensible space improvements
- Results of the 2019 Eugene Southeast Hills Wildland Urban Interface Fuels Reduction Project

Alex Do moved to the Laurel Hill Valley in April 2019. He is not a wildfire expert, but is a homeowner who lived his entire life in fire prone regions of California before moving to Eugene. Alex lives here in the valley near Riverview and Verdehill with his wife Miranda, their baby daughter Nora, and dog Maya. You might see them on walks to the neighborhood park or on the Ribbon Trail.

Government Updates: At this neighborhood meeting on November 20, our **State Representative Marty Wilde** will talk about issues being addressed in state government beginning at 8pm. Our **City Councilor Alan Zelenka** has also been invited to give us a short update on happenings in city government.

Neighborhood Elections

The Laurel Hill Valley Citizens neighborhood association holds elections for officers and other members of the executive committee at our Fall neighborhood meeting. Please see page 3 for information about this.



Food Drive

In Lane County more than 13,000 children live in poverty and more than half (52%) of all students qualify for free and reduced school meals. You can help feed these children and their families by supporting Food For Lane County. Please bring canned or packaged food to our November 20th neighborhood meeting and Food For Lane County will see that it gets to those in need. You can also help by donating money, either by bringing checks to our meeting or by going to their website at foodforlanecounty.org. For every dollar donated, FFLC can distribute enough food to provide three meals.

The foods that Food for Lane County most appreciates receiving include canned meats and fish, low sugar fruit, canned and dried beans, canned stew, chili, hearty soups, pasta, rice, cereal, corn meal, cooking oil, and canned tomato products.



PUD Updates: Here's the latest on the various development projects in our neighborhood.

by Tom Bruno, Jan Wostmann, and Bill Blix

Capital Hill PUD update: The Tentative PUD is headed back to LUBA (Land Use Board of Appeals) for a second time. LUBA sent it back to the City the first time because serious danger to public safety from landslides had not been adequately addressed. The applicant did more soil testing, and the City approved it again. The Response Committee appealed again because the additional soil tests did nothing to remove the danger. The LUBA hearing is on November 19th in Salem.

Meanwhile, the applicant applied for Final PUD and Tentative Subdivision. The Eugene Planning Director approved both of those applications. The Response Committee is appealing that decision as well. The first appeal will be before a Hearings Official. That hearing will be on November 6, 2019 at 5:30 PM in Harris Hall, 125 E. 8th Ave.

The Laurel Ridge Tentative PUD Hearing is scheduled for October 23rd and the city has recommended disapproval. The Response Committee has added additional information in support of the city's recommended denial. See below for more details.

All the formal appeals for the Furtick PUD have been exhausted and the tentative PUD has been approved. Neighbors are continuing to meet and looking into legal options to address remaining problems.

Laurel Ridge PUD by Stan Dura

Thanks to everyone who has helped with the response to this PUD, whether it be serving on the Response Committee, writing to the City Planner about it, providing us input, photos, etc. These efforts are complex and time consuming, and we can't do it without the help of all our neighbors! This PUD project would develop Tax Lot 701, about 98 acres, to accommodate about 124 dwellings, south of Augusta Street to 30th Ave. and Spring Blvd., from Moon Mountain Park to just south of Hendricks Hill. This area includes protected wetland and riparian areas, protected animal species, and is susceptible to landslides. More information can be found at <https://pdd.eugene-or.gov/LandUse/ApplicationDetails?file=PDT-18-0003>.

As of Sunday, Oct. 20th, the Executive Committee has voted to accept the Response Committee's report and recommendation that LHVC oppose the application. We've submitted our report to the City, and outline the following main concerns (among others): (continued on next page)

Neighborhood Elections

The executive committee members and officers are the people who (among other things) organize neighborhood meetings and events such as the summer ice cream social, publish this newsletter, and organize responses to developments planned for our neighborhood.

The people listed here have volunteered to run for office in the Laurel Hill Valley Citizens neighborhood association. There are still opportunities for more people to get involved by joining this friendly group. If you are interested in becoming an executive committee member, please notify one of the current members (contact information below) or just speak up at the meeting as nominations will also be taken from the floor.

Current continuing officers:

Co-chairs: Tom Bruno, Stan Dura
Secretary: Natalie Whitson
Treasurer: Susan Ratzlaff

Current / Continuing
Executive Committee Members:

Bill Blix
Tim Bradshaw
Richard Cundiff
Katie Dixon
Kaye Downey
Kathy Frazer
Lianne Gaunt
Mitch Hider
Deborah Kelly
Sheryl Kelly
Jan Wostmann



Save The Date
Neighborhood Meeting and
Potluck
Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2020

(Laurel Ridge PUD continued from previous page)

- It establishes multiple shortcuts through the neighborhood between Franklin Blvd. or the Glenwood interchange and 30th Ave.
- It fails to adequately evaluate and mitigate risks related to the preservation of trees, soil instability, and water runoff.
- It fails to sufficiently provide alternative transit options (e.g. bike paths, shared-use paths, etc.) between recreational and natural points of interest.
- It defers several code compliance decisions to stages where there is less opportunity for public review and comment

The City Planner has also advised us that they intend to recommend the Planning Commission deny the application on similar grounds (as well as others). The Public Hearing is scheduled for Wed., Oct. 23rd, and we're hopeful that many of our neighbors will be there to support the neighborhood! We are also hopeful the City will deny the application, but if they do not, we believe we have a strong legal position to appeal. Please look for future updates via email, Facebook, and the next newsletter!

If you would like to support the response effort, or if you have any questions, please contact Stan Dura at standura@hotmail.com.

Laurel Hill Valley Citizens Neighborhood Association Executive Committee Members

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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.

All uncredited text written by the newsletter editor, Deborah Kelly. Illustrations are public domain clip art. Natalie Whitson is our talented proofreader. Please send articles, comments and concerns to dskharp@yahoo.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, see our website at www.lhvc.org or contact Sheryl Kelly at 541-912-5887 or sherylkell@comcast.net. You can also email LaurelHillValleyCitizens@gmail.com and we have a Facebook group. Just go to Facebook and type in Laurel Hill Valley Citizens.