



Laurel Hill Valley Citizens

NEWSLETTER

LHVC Spring Neighborhood Meeting on Zoom
Wednesday, May 19th, 2021, 7 - 8:30pm

**The Eugene Police Department is providing several speakers
to address the issues mentioned below**

**We'll provide development updates and have
updates by Representative Marty Wilde, City Councilor Alan Zelenka
and County Commissioner Laurie Trieger**

Please join us for our spring neighborhood meeting. **The Zoom link is tinyurl.com/4k4wjndv.** Our featured speakers from the Eugene Police Department include Captain Sherri Meisel, Operations Support; Lieutenant Charles Salsbury; Crime Analysis Unit Supervisor Ryan Skiles; and one of EPD's Community Engagement Specialists.

The meeting also includes updates from our city councilor, Alan Zelenka, our county commissioner Laurie Trieger, and our state representative, Marty Wilde. This is a great opportunity to hear the latest from all three levels of government.

A Message From Tom Bruno and Lianne Gaunt, Co-Chairs, Laurel Hill Valley Citizens

We are experiencing higher than normal criminal activity within the Valley. We continue to have garages opened using garage door openers which were stolen from cars, resulting in the loss of bicycles and other high value items. Due to the high number of incidents of mailbox damage and mail theft, our Executive Board has been in contact with the US Post Office on ways to protect your mail. Even more disturbing are the thefts of catalytic converters while cars are parked in driveways; we are told that Prius catalytic converters are a prime target, although other cars and trucks have been victims. Please watch out for your neighbors, have their phone numbers readily available, and report all suspicious activity to the police and to your neighborhood. In an effort to learn more about how to deter crime and what is being done in the neighborhood representatives of the Eugene Police Department will speak to us and answer our questions during our neighborhood meeting on May 19th.

Tips for Avoiding Mail Theft

by Kaye Downey

In addition to locking mailboxes, there are some important preventative measures folks can take:

* Subscribe to USPS Informed Delivery to receive daily email updates (images) of the pieces of mail arriving at your address <https://informeddelivery.usps.com/>



(Avoiding Mail Theft, continued)

- * Don't leave mail in your box overnight. Use the USPS Hold Mail service for times you are away and cannot retrieve your mail promptly after delivery.
- * Avoid sending outgoing mail via your flagged mailbox. Greeting cards that may contain cash and bill payments with checks are especially attractive to thieves. Take outgoing mail to an official USPS collection box or Post Office (Hirons on Franklin Blvd. is convenient).
- * Police say that if you see mail theft in progress, call 911. If you have information or surveillance images of mail theft in progress, call the non-emergency line at 541-682-5111. Also, please report any mail or package theft to the non-emergency line.



Wildfire Safety



by Tom Bruno

The wildfire safety notice signs within the neighborhood (image above) are from the Eugene Fire Preparedness Coalition. Collectively, the goal is to mitigate wildfire threats to our homes and forest within the valley. The Oregon mega-fires of 2020 showed that winds can propel firebrands into our most densely populated urban areas, threatening dozens or hundreds of homes at once. Our community's safety can be greatly enhanced by each of us receiving a custom fire risk assessment and reducing hazardous fuels as appropriate for our homes. The signup form, which lets us share your contact info with Oregon Department of Forestry and our neighborhood association, is found at <https://tinyurl.com/3fctcwvx>. Signing up puts you on a priority list when money is made available to fund fuel reduction on your private property. Everyone should sign up to ensure funding is made to our valley residents.

There is an overview of the program at tinyurl.com/j6y93krx and a video summary on YouTube.

Development Updates

by Tom Bruno

The original East Ridge Village (ERV) PUD – 1st Addition is now officially called East Highlands. East Ridge Village will remain as a 40-home HOA. The excavation project for East Highlands (previously ERV Phase 6 & 7) will be approved soon, and construction is slated to begin in the first week of July. This is the higher elevation property to the south of the new homes on Snowberry Road and the East Ridge Village sign. The existing short road, Deerfern Rd., will be extended eastward to connect to a new local road, Rockrose Lane. These phases of East Highlands will consist of 43 single-family detached homes, 6 detached townhomes, and 9 attached townhomes. Once the Private Engineered Public Improvement (PEPI) and Site Development (SD) permits are approved, construction of new public infrastructure will commence to serve future homes.

(Development Updates, continued)

by Jan Wostmann



The City conducted a Zoom hearing regarding the latest Laurel Ridge PUD proposal on March 17. The record of testimony was held open until April 7, 2021.

This proposal is to cluster 372 multi-family dwelling units with associated streets on the western one-third of the property. The eastern two thirds (about 60 acres) will become a managed forest and contain two single-family lots. LHVC testified against allowing a road through the managed forest connecting Brackenfern Blvd. to 30th Ave. We raised concerns about whether the managed forest would result in the required degree of preservation to offset the destruction of the western one third of site. We also testified that a number of other PUD approval criteria were not met. To get a copy of the full LHVC testimony, contact Tim Bradshaw at yeti8757@gmail.com.

On April 22, the hearings official decided to approve the PUD application with conditions. The decision document has been uploaded to the files section of the LHVC Facebook page. The LHVC PUD Response Committee is currently deciding whether to appeal the decision. More updates at the spring general meeting.



Northwest Youth Corps in the Neighborhood

By Natalie Whitson



Northwest Youth Corps (NYC) moved into its campus at 2621 Augusta 24 years ago to provide a base of operations for its chartered high school as well as for the conservation programs NYC operates in three states. NYC is about conservation and service in action, which is why you may occasionally see tents on the lawn behind its buildings. These are times when crews are either preparing to head to the field or are coming back from a successful hitch. During these "Big Cleans", crew members carefully clean and repair all their gear to the high standard of NYC's COVID management protocols.

It has always been NYC's goal to be a good neighbor, by opening its facility to meetings of the LHVC, renting space to community members, and by allowing access to the lawn behind its building. Please help NYC keep its campus open to the public by keeping dogs under control, properly disposing of pet waste, not littering or smoking (of any kind), and by limiting activities to passive recreation such as walking or throwing a frisbee. Currently NYC's campus and lawn are closed to team sports, meetings, and classes, due to the COVID pandemic, although it is NYC's hope that the campus can formally re-open to the public later in the year as public health conditions improve. Thanks!

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Speakers from the Eugene Police Department

Local Development updates plus

*Updates by State Rep. Marty Wilde,
City Councilor Alan Zelenka &
County Commissioner Laurie Trieger*



Zoom link is tinyurl.com/4k4wjndv

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. 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 Tom Bruno (contact info on page 3). You can also email LaurelHillValleyCitizens@gmail.com and we have a Facebook group. Just go to Facebook and type in Laurel Hill Valley Citizens.