



Laurel Hill Valley Citizens

N E W S L E T T E R



Neighborhood Potluck Dinner and Meeting

Wednesday, February 19, 2020

**Potluck beginning at 6:30, meeting at 7:15
at Northwest Youth Corps, 2621 Augusta Street**



Come enjoy a wonderful potluck with people you see frequently as well as meet new people who live nearby. We've done this every winter for many years now and the food, as well as the company, is always varied and very good.

Please bring a salad, side dish, main dish, or dessert to share. We just ask that you label your contribution's ingredients, especially any possible allergens, such as peanuts, so that people with special diets will know which dishes they can eat. Also, please bring any serving utensils needed for your dish.

Our neighbor, Mitch Hider, is celebrating his 43rd year as a professional whistler and singer. He will open the meeting with an academy award favorite. This will be followed by short business and PUD (development) updates.

Our featured speaker is Eugene Police Chief Chris Skinner. We've asked him to address specific problems in our neighborhood such as recent thefts, illegal dumping, homeless camps, speeding, and the serious problems discussed in the articles on pages two and three. After a question and answer session with Chief Skinner we've invited State Representative Marty Wilde and City Councilor Alan Zelenka to provide updates. We hope to see you there!

You Are The Future of Laurel Hill Valley Citizens

by Stan Dura

Our neighborhood has the distinct honor of being Eugene's first Neighborhood Association, originally chartered in 1974. Since that time, a very steady group of neighbors has served on the Executive Committee, (some for more than two decades!), which was established to support the neighborhood and our quality of life.

Projects our Executive Committee has worked on include numerous land development cases, city planning projects, and the South Hills Study, as well as our famous summer picnic and our winter potluck. Together we've established LHVC as one of the most engaged and vibrant neighborhoods in Eugene. Many other neighborhoods look to LHVC for advice, tips, and inspiration.

Now we ask you to join the effort and help lead us into and through the upcoming years. We need additional neighbors to team up with us, whether that's by becoming part of the Executive Committee, participating on special sub-committees, moderating our Facebook group, or helping organize our community efforts, or simply by attending our general meetings.

(continued on next page)

We've been gifted a wonderful community by those who've served before us; it's our turn now to serve and empower our community!

If you are interested in getting more involved in some way, big or small, please contact either Co-Chair, Tom Bruno (brunoassoc@aol.com) or Stan Dura (standura@hotmail.com).

Serious Problem at STR in our Neighborhood

by Stan Dura

On the evening of Saturday, January 11, 2020, there was a significant incident involving a short-term rental (STR) on Augusta Street. While there have been prior complaints regarding this particular rental, this incident was particularly egregious, and the Executive Committee of the neighborhood association wanted to provide some information to the neighborhood.

The incident involved about 60 people participating in a house party. Police (EPD) were called, quickly arrived with numerous units, and were able to shut down the party before it turned for the worse. Weapons and drugs were found in and on the property and four people were arrested. Due to the tenacious advocacy of neighbors and some local media attention (via KEZI), the rental is no longer listed on the Airbnb site (at least temporarily).

We advise all Laurel Hill Valley residents to contact the police (in addition to rental administrators or owners) if they have any concerns regarding parties or illegal activity at short-term rentals. EPD does care and wants to help protect our neighborhood. For emergencies (e.g. large parties, violence, drugs, weapons, etc.) dial 911. For non-emergencies (suspicious behavior, vandalism, noise complaint, etc.), call the non-emergency line at 541-682-5111. If you're unsure, call the non-emergency line and give dispatch the information.

The City is working on regulations related to short-term rentals. Please contact JoJo Jensen (jensen1144@comcast.net) for more info regarding those efforts. If you have any questions or concerns for the Executive Committee, please contact either Co-Chair, Tom Bruno (brunoassoc@aol.com) or Stan Dura (standura@hotmail.com).

Capital Hill/University Heights Update by Tom Bruno

The LHVC and Fairmount Neighborhoods are jointly appealing a recent Land Use Board of Appeal (LUBA) decision. Our attorney feels the new LUBA hearing officials didn't interpret the testimony of our geotechnical expert correctly.

East Ridge Village Update by Tom Bruno

A new modification boundary application was sent to city planners for phases 6 and 7. The result is 13 fewer family lots. There will be a total of 39 single family lots, 6 detached townhome lots, and 14 condominium units. The goal of the developer is to build 8 homes per quarter in phase 5 before private engineered public improvements (roads, storm waters, sewers etc.) construction begins in phases 6 and 7.



Laurel Ridge PUD Update by Stan Dura

The City denied the application in November, and both we and the applicant appealed parts of the decision. The City has decided to allow the applicant six months to finalize their revised plan and another six months to evaluate it, *which will include the same participatory rights as the regular process*. Thus, there will be another public hearing and the record will be opened for additional evidence and testimony.



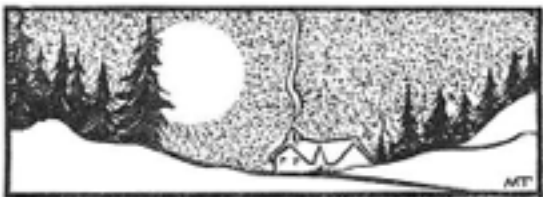
Short-Term Rentals by JoJo Jensen

Short-Term Rentals (STRs) are everywhere in Eugene. Just looking at the Airbnb website, there are hundreds of potential places to stay. Right now, the Eugene City Council is considering changes to city code to update ordinances regarding how short-term rentals can be operated in the city.

The council has directed staff to create an Ad Hoc committee that will dig into issues regarding STRs to uncover the impact on neighborhoods.

Some who host in the LHV are keenly aware of their responsibility to their neighbors and take that seriously. And some, well, not so much. This is an issue that can and does affect the fabric of the Laurel Hill Valley and it's an important issue to watch going forward. Regardless of where you stand on the subject, STRs are here to stay. But your voice can be heard at city council community comment sessions, writing letters to the editors, and generally becoming involved in the process.

If you are dealing with a situation with a short-term rental near you, first talk to your neighbor to see if you can resolve the issue. Next, call the police non-emergency number (541-682-5111) unless it is an emergency when you should call 911. Be willing to sign a complaint in order to get it on record. And finally, if it's an Airbnb property, call (855) 635-7754 or go to the web page <https://www.airbnb.com/neighbors> and follow the prompts.



Results of Neighborhood Elections

At our last neighborhood meeting we elected leaders for our neighborhood association. Current members of the executive committee are listed in the box to the right. The co-chairs are Tom Bruno and Stan Dura. Secretary is Natalie Whitson and treasurer is Susan Ratzlaff. JoJo Jensen has joined the board as our newest member.

Laurel Hill Valley Citizens Neighborhood Association Executive Committee Members

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*You're Invited to a Neighborhood Potluck
followed by a neighborhood meeting
6:30pm, Weds. Feb. 19, 2020
at Northwest Youth Corps
2621 Augusta Street*



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 Tom Bruno or Stan Dura (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.