



Laurel Hill Valley Citizens

N E W S L E T T E R



You Are Invited to A Neighborhood Ice Cream Social

Sunday, August 22, 2021, 5 - 7pm

at Laurel Hill Park, Augusta Street at 26th



By Natalie Whitson

Please help us celebrate our community on Sunday August 22nd, 5- 7pm, at Laurel Hill Park on Augusta Street. Join us for free ice cream (including a non-dairy option for those who don't eat dairy) and toppings, served by masked and vaccinated board members. We are also inviting two food trucks to the park, or you can bring a picnic dinner. Mitch Hider returns as our wonderful MC with his magic show and invisible dog Rosco. There will be an area marked off for vaccinated people only, so that those who are vaccinated but still at high risk can be comfortable attending.

Things to bring: chairs or blankets to sit on; water or other (non alcoholic) drinks and picnic dinner for yourself and your family; and cash to help support event costs (optional) and/or to purchase food from the food trucks. If you choose to bring a dog, they must be on a leash and under control at all times. If you'd like to help with setup, please arrive at the park at 4pm that day.

Due to public health circumstances, we've made the difficult decision to cancel - for this year only - the dessert contest, kid's games, and antique car rides. Hopefully, they will be back in 2022!

Help Us To Prevail by Donating!

By Tim Bradshaw, Laurel Ridge Response Committee, and Natalie Whitson

Neighbors, please read this if you care about our valley. You may have heard about the Laurel Ridge Planned Unit Development (PUD), which calls for 372 multi-unit homes to be built near the junction of 30th Avenue and Spring Blvd.



The LHVC has objected to the PUD primarily because this development - if allowed - would provide a direct short-cut for traffic between I-5 or Franklin Blvd. and 30th Ave. This extra traffic would clearly reduce the quality of life we enjoy in the valley and is also forbidden by the long-standing Laurel Hill Plan.

To date, all of the appeal submittals for the Laurel Ridge PUD have been handled by LHVC volunteers. We are now engaged in a legal battle before a panel of land use judges in Salem (LUBA - Land Use Board of Appeal) and argue that the City can't simply ignore the obvious intent of the code regarding traffic.

As LUBA is our final stage of appeal, here's where you can help. Please make the most generous tax deductible donation you can, to allow us to afford the best legal representation possible. We have set a fundraising goal of \$4,000, and so far, have raised just under \$1,000. Please make your check payable to LHVC, and write "Laurel Ridge PUD" on the memo line. Your check can be sent to our NEW neighborhood P.O. Box: **LHVC, 1950 Franklin Blvd, PMB 41, Eugene Oregon 97403.**

Any amount you can donate is appreciated, and you will receive an acknowledgment for your tax records. Thank you in advance for your support!

Please Join Us!

By Tom Bruno and Lianne Gaunt, LHVC Co-Chairs



Please consider joining the executive board of the LHVC. As a neighborhood association, we preserve our valley's quality of life. The LHV is growing rapidly with new homes in the East Mountain and Stone Crest subdivisions. Our board is currently working on issues of public safety and sanitation (illegal dumping). Plans for emergency preparedness / evacuation plans within the valley are in the works. We have fun too! In August, we host our annual Ice Cream Social in the park. We are also working with Ben Hansen to make Moon Mountain Park more accessible and enjoyable by the public.

In November, we host our annual election for new executive committee members. Please consider joining us, especially if you live along Floral Hill or Augusta streets, or in the East Mountain, Stone Crest, and East Ridge Village areas. If you'd like to learn more, talk with any executive committee member at our August 22 ice cream social (see article on first page for more details) and thank you for your interest!



Keep Your Property Clean and Green To Reduce Fire Danger

by Natalie Whitson

As you know, fire danger is top (or should be) of everyone's minds here in the Laurel Hill Valley. Eugene Code requires owners of property to reduce the amount of tall grass, blackberry bushes, and vegetation they have on their property, in part to reduce fire danger. If you ignore this, the City sends you a formal letter, and ultimately will hire a contractor to clear your vegetation. They will then put a lien on your property until the bill is paid. If you have trees along a city street, those belong to the city and city parks. Don't cut them yourself and risk a \$250 fine. Instead, contact JChandler@eugene-or.gov at the city. Please help keep your neighborhood safe, and clear vegetation to reduce fire danger this summer. Thank you!

Update on Fire Coalition Assessment

by Tom Bruno and Lianne Gaunt

The neighborhood leaders fire coalition has begun looking at the 39 homes of Laurel Hill Valley residents waiting for fire assessments. As the number of trained personnel passing the rigorous test is very low, and there are 325 homes signed up across the city at this time, your turn may not be immediate but you will receive a fire assessment by a qualified and certified individual if you signed up.



Protect Yourself with These Fraud Prevention Tips



by Steven Chambers, Community Engagement Specialist, Eugene Police Department

One of the most important aspects of fraud prevention is taking necessary steps **before** becoming a victim. Criminals and con artists target unsuspecting people who have access to money. Consumer scams happen on the phone, through the mail, by e-mail, or over the internet. They can occur in person, at home, or at a business.

Here are some basic tips to protect yourself from scams:

- **Don't share numbers or passwords for accounts, credit cards, or Social Security.**
- **Independent Verification.** Don't let scammers give you telephone numbers, email addresses, etc. Verify those yourself by looking up contact information.
- **Never pay up front for a promised prize.** It's a scam if you are told that you must pay fees or taxes to receive a prize or other financial windfall.
- **After hearing a sales pitch, take time to compare prices.** Ask for information in writing and read it carefully.
- **Too good to be true?** Ask yourself why someone is trying so hard to give you a "great deal". If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- **Watch out for deals that are only "good today" and that pressure you to act.** Do read a contract or get legal advice before signing. Also, don't fall for the sales pitch that says you need to pay immediately, for example by wiring the money or sending it by courier.

If you have become a victim of a scam or fraud, make a police report online at www.eugenepolice.com or call the non-emergency line at 541-682-5111. Have any bank documentation, suspect information (if any) and personal information ready to provide to the police department.



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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.