



August 2010

Laurel Hill Valley Citizens

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Neighborhood Picnic at Laurel Hill Park

5pm, Sunday August 22

by Johanna Mitchell and Deborah Kelly

If you received this newsletter you're invited to our summer celebration neighborhood picnic. Bring your family and enjoy a wonderful gathering with your friends and neighbors. The neighborhood association will supply the food, as well as the plates and utensils, plus some entertainment. This very popular event has been evolving over the years and just keeps getting better. Come share in the fun and meet some new friends. If you are new to the neighborhood, the park is at the south end of Augusta Street.

Raffle

We'll have another wonderful raffle this year, featuring gift certificates from neighborhood restaurants including Evergreen Indian, Subway, and Track Town Pizza, as well as beautiful art work from our neighbors, coffee coupons, groceries, and other fabulous prizes. All proceeds go towards picnic expenses and for park improvements in the future, such as more benches and picnic tables.

Raffle tickets cost \$1 apiece, 6 for \$5, 13 for \$10, or 30 for \$20.

Dessert Contest

For the last few years the picnic has included a dessert contest, which has become very popular. All types of baked goods are eligible—cookies, as in bar, brownie, drop, molded, rolled, cut out, or refrigerator; cupcakes, pies, fruit crumbles and crisps or wherever your imagination and creativity leads you. Bring your delectable treats in a reusable container with your name and phone number hidden on the bottom. Bake enough for the judges to taste with some left over to share with the crowd. If the dessert you bring includes nuts, please include a label stating that. If you are one of the winners, we would love to have your recipe to publish in our newsletter.

Judging will be at 6:00 pm. Judges will include Alan Zelenka (our city councilor), as well as some of our neighbors. Along with fame, bragging rights and applause, prizes will be awarded for the judges' top 3 favorites!

Most everyone loves dessert and we'd be delighted to taste some of your favorites.

May the best dessert win!!!

Zero Waste Event

Once again we are planning a Zero-Waste Event. We will have bins for recycling and provide re-usable plates and utensils. We have become the neighborhood to emulate and others are following our example.

We're trying to encourage zero waste so that we can divert as much trash as possible from the landfill. Our goal is to have all the picnic materials reusable, recyclable, or compostable.

Entertainment

Our entertainment will feature Mitch Hider who is a nationally known, award winning whistler, singer, ukulele player and vaudevillian. One highlight of his performance will be his Laurel Hill ode "Turkeys in the 'Hood". We're also happy to welcome Cedar who will be playing his bagpipes again this year.

For those who want to make their own entertainment, there will be hoops and balls available near the play area for the kids.

Food

The food will include hot dogs, vegetarian chili, corn on the cob, various salads and dips, bread, and watermelon.

Please Bring:

- Your family and neighbors
- Cash to buy raffle tickets
- Picnic blankets or chairs
- Desserts if you are entering the dessert contest
- Reusable bottles of water for yourself
- Containers for leftovers, if you like

Please leave your pets at home



New Neighborhood Matching Grant Cycle Opens!

by Sandy Tilcock

The City of Eugene Neighborhood Matching Grants cycle is now open and has \$50,000 available for neighborhood improvement and community-building projects. Projects may include, but are not limited to:

- Physical improvements that involve recreation or public safety facilities, natural resource features, public art and spaces or community gardens.
- Public school partnership projects that benefit school children and the immediate neighborhood.
- Neighborhood-based events and celebrations.
- Capacity-building initiatives that serve to create, diversify, or increase participation in a neighborhood-based organization or promote an understanding of issues important to neighborhood residents.

Grant guidelines and application materials are available on the City's web site, www.eugene-or.gov/matchinggrants, and at the Permit and Information Center, the Downtown, Bethel and Sheldon libraries, the Amazon, Hilyard, Sheldon, and Peterson Barn Community Centers and the Campbell Senior Center.

All applications will be required to undergo a pre-review by October 15, 2010, to ensure consistency with grant guidelines and existing plans and policies of the City and other partner agencies. Final applications are due on January 17, 2011. Awards will be announced in early April 2011.

I encourage everyone to consider what they would like for our neighborhood and whether this is a way to achieve that. One neighborhood painted their fire hydrants with individual designs and another did an oral history project which culminated in a neighborhood celebration. (Our neighborhood is certainly rich with history.)

One idea that surfaced at the recent Executive Committee meeting was some much needed maintenance and improvements to Laurel Hill Park. The Executive Committee is available to help you formulate a proposal, so put on your thinking caps and let's see what we can do for the neighborhood. Don't forget, this can be something fun!



Laurel Hill Valley Green Neighbor (not just) Bike Tour

by Sally Manifold

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Starts 1 pm at Northwest Youth Corps (2621 Augusta Street). Ends approximately 3:30 pm.

As a group, we will ride bikes, carpool or enjoy a pedicab ride (donation requested) to 7 sites in the valley to sample a few of the ways that folks are practicing sustainability.

Learn about our local organic farm and its programs for youth, home photo-voltaic electricity generation, green home design and recycling of construction materials, conversion of lawn to food and native plant habitat, chicken keeping and greenhouse construction, bioswales and watershed protection, home canning and food preservation, and more.

All sites are in the valley bottom, short easy rides apart. Northwest Youth Corps has plenty of parking if you need to drive. (Plan to carpool from there or use NW Youth Corps's shuttle, as parking at tour sites is limited.)

For more information: Sally Manifold, 541-344-0169, smanifold@bespin.org



Commemorative Bench Update

by Sandy Tilcock

We were successful in raising the funds for the commemorative bench and want to thank the neighborhood for their support. Flossie Higgins will truly be surprised when she sees the bench and can sit on it looking out over the neighborhood that she has called home for the last 66 years.

The bench has been ordered and we are hoping the city will have it installed by the date of the picnic (this is dependent on the delivery of the bench). The parks employee responsible for the siting of benches and improvements will meet with those of us most involved in this endeavor to determine the location. The city will install a cement pad for the bench and do the installation.

Mobile Canning Project

by Tracy Gagnon, Site Coordinator, School Garden Project of Lane County

This summer the community is invited to participate in a series of canning demonstrations in each of the six Eugene Community Gardens. Canning equipment will be hauled to each garden via our mobile bike cannery. With a double burner propane stove, portable sink, tables, buckets, and canning supplies loaded on our bike we're equipped to jam, pickle, and salsa out of doors with interested community members. Skinner City Farm will coordinate the demonstrations in collaboration with the Center for Appropriate Transport (CAT) with funding provided by a Neighborhood Matching Grant from the City.

The demonstrations will begin with raw ingredients and culminate with a finished can of preserves. Our canning focus is on what the typical home or community gardener will have in their garden patch. Our hope at Skinner City Farm is to teach and encourage folks to preserve summer harvests that would otherwise go to waste. We want to share how simple the canning process can be and at the same time build community within the gardens. Canning, we believe, will create an outlet for excess produce and increase local food security.

The Mobile Cannery is the beginning of a larger project at Skinner City Farm. Our long-term goal is to develop a Food Preservation Center where community members will be able to preserve foods in a large commercial kitchen.

We'll be canning jam, pickles, tomatoes, and other preserves this summer. Come participate in these demonstrations and see the start to finish process of home canning. Jam with us on the following Saturdays:

8/14: River House Community Garden

8/21: Alton Baker Community Garden

9/11: Skinner City Farm

9/25: Whiteaker Community Garden

10/2: Matthews Community Garden

10/16: Amazon Community Garden

Please email Tracy at mobilecannery@gmail.com for more information

Sharing Produce from Our Gardens

by Deborah Kelly

It's harvest season again and some neighborhood gardens have produced an overabundance of riches. If you have extra fruit or vegetables that you would like to share with your neighbors we can post that information on the neighborhood website. Just send an e-mail to Julie at gpeppers@gmail.com. Please include the type of produce that you have to share, plus your contact information so that people can arrange to pick it up.

To check the website for free produce, go to www.lhvc.org and click on "Free Neighborhood Surplus Produce".



Tours of Many City Neighborhoods Offered This Summer

by Sally Manifold

Starting July 17, many Eugene neighborhoods are sponsoring Green Neighbor Tours by bicycle. The August/September schedule continues with tours as follows (watch the media for more details):

Aug. 14: Jefferson Westside, 10 am—Meet at Monroe Park.

Sept. 4: Whiteacre Community Council—Start TBA

Sept. 11: Bethel—Start TBA

Sept. 19: Laurel Hill Valley, 1 pm—Northwest Youth Corps, 2621 Augusta St.

Sept. 25: Southeast Neighbors, 10 am—Meet at 450 E. 30th Ave.

Check out great photos of two River Road July tours:

www.suburbanpermaculture.org/RR%20Tour%202010/2010%20RRd%20Tour.html

Looking Ahead

Fall Neighborhood Meeting

Thursday, November 18

7 pm

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.



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Northwest Youth Corps (NYC) Celebrates Community and Sustainability this Summer!

by Liz Karas, Northwest Youth Corps

The sun is out and our youth are outdoors! Over 900 young people are scattered across the Northwest building trails and restoring fragile ecosystems. This summer we here at NYC are working on more than just empowering youth through conservation, we are also making our facility more sustainable!

Our goal is reduce our carbon footprint and lower our utilities cost so that more resources can go to the youth. This summer we have literally raised our roof (to help with airflow and add natural light), replaced windows with more energy efficient designs, replaced our insulation, installed new environmentally friendly bathroom facilities that are ADA compliant, and added two solar-hot water systems to our facility.

Also, because of the fantastic support from community members such as our LHV neighbors, we won the EWEB Solar Array Grant and will be installing the new solar array THIS SUMMER!!!

To celebrate the success of our youth and our sustainable facility remodel we will be hosting the Eugene Chamber of Commerce After Hours Event here at our headquarters. See www.eugenechamber.com for more information and mark your calendars – the event will be on September 16th from 5 to 7 pm. Expect extra traffic on that day. Let us know if you are interested in attending. (Liz Karas, ElizabethK@NWYouthCorps.org, 541-349-7501)

Thank you again LHV Neighbors for all your incredible support!



All uncredited material by the Newsletter Editor: Deborah Kelly. Please send letters, articles, comments and concerns to dskharp@yahoo.com.
Newsletter design by LHVC neighbor Katherine Getta, www.gettadesign.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: Sandy Tilcock, LHVC Chair, 541-465-9079, stilcock@gmail.com

www.lhvc.org