

Laurel Hill Valley Citizens

N E W S L E T T E R

Annual Gathering at Laurel Hill Park -- 5 pm Sunday, August 23, 2015

Bring a Picnic Dinner and Create an Ice Cream Sundae

Come enjoy some time in the park with your neighbors. Our Neighborhood Association will provide all the ingredients for delicious ice cream sundaes and everyone can enjoy creating (and eating!) their own. There will be **children's activities** such as the chance to make sidewalk chalk art and **games** such as bocce, croquet, and a bean bag toss. The giant ball -- which is so popular with the children -- will be back, and we've got a few surprises planned. Also back, everyone's favorite dessert contest (details below). Additionally, we've invited our local elected representatives to join us.

Along with your family and friends and your picnic meals, we suggest that you **bring** blankets or chairs to sit on, and a bowl and spoon to use at the ice cream bar (we'll bring some for those who don't bring their own). We'd also appreciate it if you can bring along a **donation** for the neighborhood association to help pay for our picnic expenses and the neighborhood newsletter. Please don't bring your pets or any glass items.

If you want to participate in the **dessert contest**, please bring your entries in reusable containers and label them on the bottom with your name where the judges won't see it. Another label, where it will be seen, can show the name of the dessert and should include information about any possible allergens (such as nuts). There will be prizes given to the winners and, after the judging, the desserts will be shared with the crowd.

Development News

by Gunnar Schlieder

Four Planned Unit Developments (PUDs) that will or would affect the Laurel Hill Valley neighborhood are either *de facto* or potentially active. A land use application for Modification of Tentative PUD has been filed for **East Ridge Village**. The proposed modification includes changes to lot configurations and phasing but the overall number of lots remains unchanged. The biggest modification, either by design or due to a mistake on the application's maps, would have been a change in the status of conservation areas from mostly commonly held to privately held. Jan Wostmann (LHVC Co-Chair) noticed the change, and provided testimony to the City's Planning Department asking them to deny the modification as it represented a significant change. The applicant responded quickly that they would modify the PUD maps to leave the status of the conservation areas unchanged.

Environ-Metal, the developer of the proposed **Laurel Ridge PUD** has applied for a zone change of the properties involved in that development, which is a pre-condition for application for a PUD. During the last application process, in 2012/13, the developer applied for both the zone change and Tentative PUD concurrently. That zone change application was denied on the grounds that it failed to include Parks and Open Space (POS) zoning, as required by the Metro Plan. The developer appealed all the way to the Court of Appeals but lost at all levels. The current zone change application does include about 20 acres of POS zoning, but LHVC will ask for denial as this appears to be represent only approximately 50% of the area slated for this zoning on the Metro Plan diagram.

Tom and Cindy Dreyer indicate that they are still planning to proceed with some form of PUD application for

(Development News, continued)

the **Capital Hill PUD** which includes “The Pink House”, straddling the top of the ridge north of Hendricks Park. However, no formal application has yet been submitted to the City.

It also appears that one or more potential buyers are negotiating with the representative of the Marcia Stevens Trust who has once again advertised the almost 22-acre property after Landmark’s 2013/14 proposal to develop the property as student housing was denied by the City. No particulars of any potential development proposals are available.

Please Take the Parks and Recreation Survey

by Paul Orum

Now available at a website near you is a new Parks and Recreation Department survey of particular interest to residents of the Laurel Hill Valley. That is because the protection of open space and the future of our valley are inextricably linked.

Ongoing battles over large housing developments in the valley turn in part on protection of natural areas. For example, thanks in part to a response committee of Laurel Hill Valley Citizens, portions of the south ridge that defines the valley (between 30th and Moon Mt.) is slated as parkland. However, whether the protected tracts will be meaningfully large and effectively linked to other natural areas remains to be determined.

In general, the survey asks what you value in parks and recreation and how to prioritize limited resources. In taking the survey, consider that:

Acquiring and preserving as natural parks the ridges and headwaters around Laurel Hill Valley will have a major impact on our valley.

Protecting open space as natural areas, rather than as highly developed parks, keeps the cost low and addresses the notion that we can’t afford new park areas;

Linking these natural areas to the larger Ridgeline Trail System provides strategic long term opportunities, such as trails from our valley over Moon Mountain, then through an existing freeway underpass to the Riverbank Trail System, Buford Park and Mt. Pisgah, and the Pacific Crest Trail Connector.

Take the 15-minute survey at EUGparksandrec.org. At the end you may enter an optional drawing for one free recreation program registration or a customized recreation outing for you and ten friends.

City Seeks Opinions about the Ribbon Trail

by Natalie Whitson

Eugene has about 38 miles of soft-surface trail, which consist of bark, wood chip, gravel, dirt and rock surfaces. One such trail is Eugene's Ribbon Trail, which connects Hendricks Park to Spring Boulevard. The Eugene Parks and Open Space Division currently seeks input on issues such as compatible uses and system expansion and maintenance, as part of its trail master planning process.

In the LHVC May newsletter, we printed a letter from a local resident opposed to the Eugene Trails Plan to allow mountain bikes on the Ribbon Trail. More recently, the LHVC Executive Committee heard other opinions. These included allowing bikes on the Ribbon Trail, assuming the trail right-of-way was substantially widened, to protect the entire hillside viewshed as parks and open space, while constructing parallel bicycle and pedestrian trails. A third option supported bike access on most trails, as well as collaboration with other trail users, such as bicycle groups who might support use of bicycles on portions of the Ribbon Trail.

Given the diversity of opinions, both on the LHVC Executive Committee and in the neighborhood, the

(Ribbon Trail, continued)

Committee decided not to take a position regarding the use of the Ribbon Trail by bicycle riders. Instead we urge LHVC neighbors to write Park Planning (at POS@ci.eugene.or.us) with your own opinions about this subject. For more information about the Ribbon Trail, see segments #23 and #24 at: <http://www.eugene-or.gov/index.aspx?NID=2543>

Help Stop Illegal Dumping in our Neighborhood

by Kathy Frazer

The illegal dumping in our neighborhood needs to stop. It seems to occur mostly on the “houseless” areas of Moon Mountain Drive and Laurel Hill Drive. If you see someone dumping things along the road, please call the police non-emergency number, 541-682-5111, to report their license plate. The fine for illegal dumping and for littering is \$100.

To request cleanup along the Moon Mountain right of way call Eugene Public Works at 541-682-4800. For Laurel Hill Drive, call ODOT at 541-744-8080. If trash is on private property it is the responsibility of the landowner. Let's keep our neighborhood clean!

Camping Issues in Laurel Hill Valley

by Kathy Frazer

Recently a neighbor on Laurel Hill Drive received an anonymous letter complaining that she was letting someone camp on her property. This neighbor has no one camping on her property but has no way to respond to the letter writer. There is someone camping on private property behind a house on Augusta Street. The neighborhood association is aware of him and has been following his activities. So far there has been no report of illegal activity. He had been camping on the large vacant property in the middle of the neighborhood but was asked to move. The owner of that property lives outside Eugene.

If you have a neighborhood complaint, please bring it to the attention of someone on the Neighborhood Executive Committee or at least sign your letter so that you can have your issue addressed and receive a response. Executive Committee members are listed below, as well as on the website: www.lhvc.org or you can email LaurelHillValleyCitizens@gmail.com.

*Save The Date
Fall Neighborhood Meeting
7pm, Wednesday,
November 18, 2015*

*Photos of our Valley?
If you have lived in the Laurel Hill
Valley for a long time and have old
photos of the area, please contact Paul
Orum at 541-342-4527 or
paul_orum@yahoo.com. The Lane
County Historical Museum is
interested in these.*

Laurel Hill Valley Citizens Neighborhood Association Executive Committee Members

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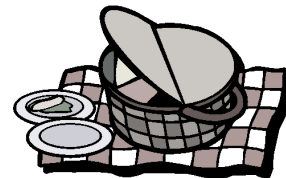
Laurel Hill Valley Citizens
c/o Neighborhood Services
99 W. 10th Avenue
Eugene, OR 97401

PRESORTED STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
EUGENE OR 97401
PERMIT NO. 377

*You're Invited to A Neighborhood Picnic
and Ice Cream Social*



*Sunday, August 23, 2015
5pm at Laurel Hill Park
(on Augusta Street at 26th)*



Policy statement: This is the official newsletter of the Laurel Hill Valley Citizens. Funds for the printing and mailing of newsletters are provided in part 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 Gunnar Schlieder, LHVC co-chair at 541-729-4271 or gunnar@geoscience-or.com. You can also email LaurelHillValleyCitizens@gmail.com and we have a Facebook group. Just go to Facebook and type in Laurel Hill Valley Citizens.