



# Laurel Hill Valley Citizens

## NEWSLETTER

### In This Issue

Meeting Announcement

Disaster Preparedness

Can you Contribute Art for  
Our Newsletter?

Award Winning Neighbors

Meet a Doggone Neighbor

Sustainability Rep Needed

New Park Trails  
Connecting Neighbors

## Neighborhood Meeting

### Fifth Annual Spring Plant and Seed Exchange Second Annual Garden Supply, Tools and Miscellaneous Equipment Exchange

**Wednesday, May 18th**

at NorthWest Youth Corps  
(next to the park at 2621 Augusta Street)

6:30pm Plant, Seed & Tool Exchange

7:00pm Neighborhood Meeting

Speakers will include Alan Zelenka with a report from the City Council and a representative from the City of Eugene Emergency Management Program to talk about disaster preparedness. Please see the article beginning on page 2.

## Garden Exchange

by Johanna Mitchell

Bring your spring cuttings, seedlings, potted plants, bulbs, edible plants, small shrubs, trees, old plastic pots – especially those large ones, clay or ceramic pots, tools you no longer use or which may be in need of tender loving care. Any garden supplies or related items will be much appreciated.

If you just don't have room for another day lily in your yard, one of our neighbors may be longing to plant 5 of them!



## (Garden Exchange, Continued)

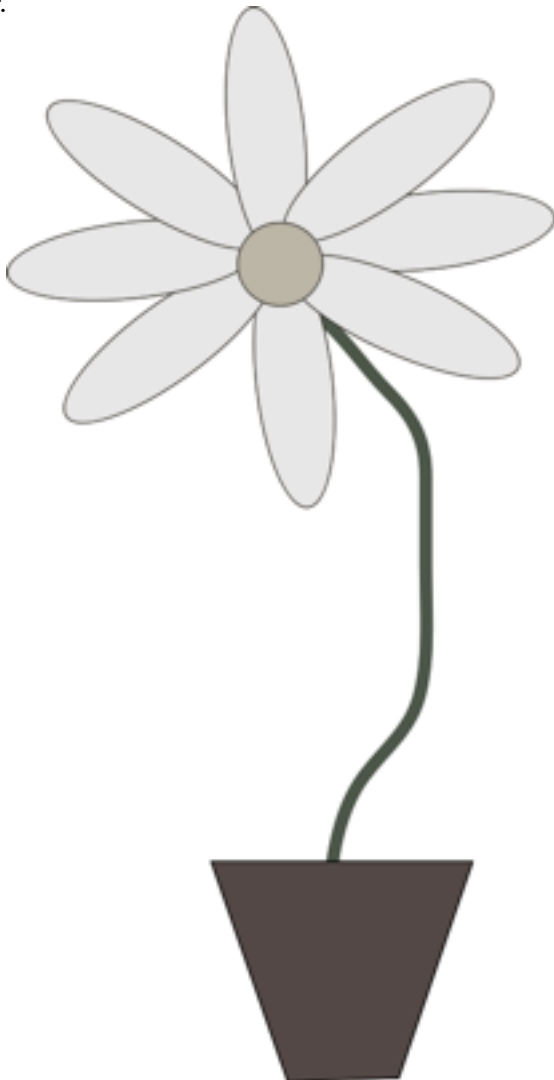
Here is a chance to look through your shed or garage or basement or closet and find treasures you can pass along to another neighbor.

Please come, browse around, and take something new home with you! Share extra plants and seeds from your garden, learn from others and enhance your garden with the bounty from your neighbors

Please mark your offerings with a name tag. People will appreciate knowing the plant's variety and bloom color with an indication of sun, partial shade, or full shade requirements.

Some of the things we exchanged last year included tomato plants, iris bulbs, knee pads, organic fertilizers, a rose bush, gardening gloves and flower seeds.

I wonder what creative offerings we will find this year.



## DISASTER PREPAREDNESS Map Your Neighborhood and CERT Programs

by Carlos Barrera

The recent earthquakes in Chile and Japan have raised awareness of the need for emergency preparedness here in Oregon. A subduction zone like the one whose movement recently devastated Japan, exists just off the coast of Oregon. But we may also experience wind storms, heavy snow or icy weather, or floods that may interrupt power and other services and may make it difficult to get to the stores for supplies. The City of Eugene, in recognition of these possibilities, is accelerating its' existing programs to prepare residents for possible disasters by a collaboration with the city neighborhood associations to get out the word about the Map Your Neighborhood and Community Emergency Response Team programs.

The Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) program is designed to improve disaster preparedness among neighbors. A disaster is when there are more emergencies than professional responders—police, fire-fighters, paramedics and utility personnel—can handle.

During the hours or days that may pass before professional responders are available, residents rely on themselves and assistance from neighbors for emergency help. MYN provides a step-by-step process that neighbors can work through together to make sure they are disaster-prepared.

It takes just one person to begin the process—someone

## (Disaster Preparedness continued)

who personally invites neighbors to his or her home for a 90-minute preparedness meeting.

### During a MYN meeting participants;

- \* Learn the “9 steps to take immediately following a disaster;
- \* Identify the skills and equipment each participant has that could help the neighborhood cope with a disaster.
- \* Create a neighborhood map that pinpoints the locations of all natural gas meters and propane tanks.
- \* Compile a contact list to include the names of individuals who may need extra help in a disaster, such as the elderly, persons with disabilities, or children home alone.
- \* Select locations for a “Neighborhood Gathering Site” and a “Neighborhood Care Center”.

MYN participants learn nine steps that begin at home and then reach throughout the neighborhood.

Immediately after the onset of a disaster, residents check to ensure that their own families and homes are safe and sound. They don protective clothing; check for natural gas leaks and shut off the gas to their house if necessary; shut off water and electricity to the house if needed; tape a placard onto their front door or window signaling their status (“OK” or “Help”); and take their household fire extinguishers out to the front curb for use in the neighborhood. These are the first six steps.

Those who are able then go to the designated Neighborhood Gathering Site, where they use the skills learned and equipment collected earlier to assemble four teams.

One team remains at the Site to monitor local radio broadcasts for emergency information; another team uses the neighborhood contact list to check on the individuals previously identified as needing extra assistance and to transport them to the Care Center if appropriate. A third team checks neighborhood gas

meters and propane tanks and shuts them off when needed. The remaining team walks door-to-door to check on homes displaying the “Help” placard (or no placard).

As the teams complete their assignments, they report back to the gathering site and make further plans as required.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program is for those volunteers who would like to receive more in-depth training so as to be able to support professional disaster services. This involves an 8 class course to train in first aid, firefighting, light search and rescue, establishing emergency shelters, two-way radio use, and other skills. When enough people in a local area have been trained, they form teams that would immediately assemble after a disaster in order to prevent small fires from growing, clear streets of debris to provide access for emergency vehicles, locate and cordon-off hazard zones such as fallen power lines, radio information to appropriate agencies, set-up emergency centers and shelters, and assist their neighbors where ever needed.

For more information on MYN: Use email to leave your contact information at [ActionPlanEugene@gmail.com](mailto:ActionPlanEugene@gmail.com) or Call (541)344-2244.

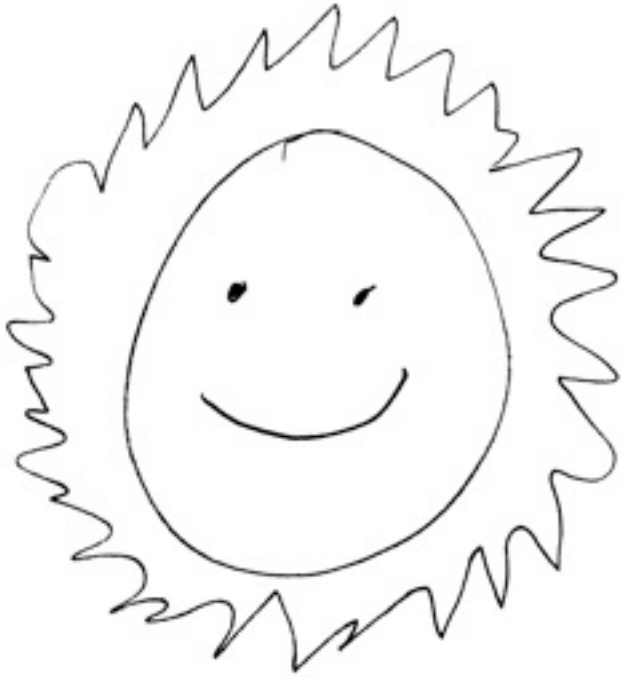
For more information on CERT: [www.citizencorps.gov](http://www.citizencorps.gov)

To sign up for free classes in Eugene: Call (541) 682-6000



# *Have some art for the newsletter?*

by Sandy Tilcock



Are you someone who loves to sketch or photograph your surroundings? Or do you have a refrigerator door full of your kids' or grandkids' drawings? Are you willing to share those sketches/drawings/photographs with the neighborhood? We are looking for just those things to include in the neighborhood newsletter. Our newsletter editor, Deborah Kelly, does a great job of getting articles for the newsletter and now she is doing the layout as well. Let's help her out by providing some visual elements to break up the text. Send digital images to [dskharp@yahoo.com](mailto:dskharp@yahoo.com) or, if you are unable to scan the artwork, send a photocopy to Deborah at 2988 Chandler Ave and she will scan it.

Let's make the newsletter even better by having more of us contribute to it.





# *Save The Dates*

Neighborhood Picnic  
Sunday, August 21, 2011

Fall Neighborhood Meeting  
Wednesday, November 16, 2011



## **LHVC 2011 WE-Gene Award Winners**

by Stephanie Midkiff

The Laurel Hill Valley Citizens Executive Committee nominated Johanna Mitchell and partner Ron Petersen for this year's WE-Gene! Award. Johanna joined the Executive Committee about 5 years ago and immediately infused new enthusiasm into our meetings with innovative suggestions such as plant and media exchanges and a food preservation demo (with samples!) at our Green Neighbor Bike Tour.

Where Johanna has really excelled however was in bringing a new level of organization to our annual picnic. She volunteered to coordinate almost all aspects, from securing raffle prizes and food donations to enlisting neighbors to make salads and oversee the dessert contest – quickly earning her the appellation Picnic Czarina! Additionally – perhaps inspired by Ron's experience with Lane County's Master Recycler Program – Johanna's vision from the beginning for the picnic was to make it more "sustainable" – to have a zero-waste picnic. She and Ron began purchasing dishes, utensils, and napkins from thrift stores to put together "durable place settings" to eliminate waste. The Lane County Waste Management Division knew a good idea when they saw it and purchased the kits from them, making them available for loan to other groups. This great idea earned Ron the Master Recycler Award for 2008.

More recently, Johanna and Ron have incorporated compost bins for the picnic, and Johanna has endeavored to purchase locally grown food. They have devoted countless hours to transporting supplies to and from the picnic and to washing dishes and napkins themselves. Their commitment to the environment has had a tangible ripple effect and LHVC is lucky they're a part of our neighborhood.

Johanna and Ron will be recognized at the WE-gene! Awards event on May 19th.

## MEET A DOGGONE NEIGHBOR

by Mitch Hider

Hi, I'm Roscoe the invisible dog. Lots of people and pets have met me walking around the neighborhood lately with my pal Mitch Hider. But if you've just seen me from your car, I'd like to introduce myself.

Mitch and I have been together for almost 30 years. We are performers. I have been to hundreds of events and shows, fairs and festivals with him; for many years I greeted kids at the 'Magical Moombah' at the Shedd.

Usually I just make myself available for petting – I'm soft as air – and for cliché comments ("doesn't eat much does he?" "easy to clean up after!") but I have a simple routine too: I say hello (WOOF! WOOF! WOOF!), I demonstrate how I sound barking in the distance (woof, woof, woof) and then I pretend to bark 25 miles away ( \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ ).

Walking around the neighborhood I am usually greeted with smiles and comments. (Northwest Youth Corps kids call me "awesome") but sometimes dogs and people act as if ... I'm not even there. I'm asked about my breed: Invisible. But sometimes Mitch says I'm an "AIR-dale" or Mitch will say "bird dog" and then he will chirp; he likes to whistle.

I'm happy to know that when Mitch is out walking without me, people ask where I am. A few Sundays ago he told someone I was in church in a canine congregation singing "nearer my DOG to thee" and learning about Noah and the "bark."

See you around, I hope.



### Laurel Hill Valley Neighborhood Association Executive Committee Members

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Mitch Hider	541-343-1115
Betty Hosokawa	541-683-1907
Deborah Kelly	
Sally Manifold	541-344-0169
Stephanie Midkiff	
Johanna Mitchell	
Sherwood Reese	
Sandy Tilcock	541-465-9079
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# Sustainability Rep Needed

by Sally Manifold

There is an opening for a representative from the Laurel Hill Valley on the Committee on Sustainability (COS), an arm of the Neighborhood Leaders' Council.

The COS spreads the word about conservation, gardening, neighborhood coordination and more, and reaches out to the community at events such as the Good Earth Home, Garden and Living Show in January, where they sponsored many workshops and seminars on a wide range of sustainability topics. Last October, COS organized the first Local and Green Community Conference, which drew a varied audience of more than 100.

Closer to home, our Green Neighbor Bike Tour last September was part of a city-wide COS program to show off what each neighborhood is doing sustainably. Our Laurel Hill Valley tour was great, visiting 7 sites with gardens, chickens, solar panels, food preservation and more.

If you'd like to help out and coordinate such activities for our neighborhood, email or call our chair Sandy Tilcock, who will nominate you for the committee. Contact: [stilcock@gmail.com](mailto:stilcock@gmail.com) 541-465-9079

## New Park Trails Connecting Neighbors

by Kelly Darnell, Eugene Parks and Open Space

A series of recent park projects, strengthened by community partnerships, have created new trails in southeast Eugene, resulting in improved commuting options and connections between neighborhoods.

The Northwest Youth Corps OutDoor School, supported by members of the Friends of Hendricks Park, Fairmont and Laurel Hill Neighborhood Associations, and volunteers from Oregon Woods Inc., received a City of Eugene Neighborhood Matching Grant to realign a heavily eroded segment of the Floral Hill Trail in Hendricks Park. The improved trail joins Hendricks Park and the newly constructed 0.75 mile Ribbon Trail to Floral Hill Drive and creates a pedestrian connection between the Fairmount and Laurel Hill Valley Neighborhoods.

In addition, EWEB's need to place a water main line down a narrow City-owned parcel between 30th avenue and Spring Blvd. resulted in an opportunity to improve a crucial commuter link. The City Parks and Open Space Division partnered with EWEB staff and members of the Disciples of Dirt and the Obsidians to build a trail over the location of the filled-in water main's trench. The two volunteer groups worked with City Volunteer-In-Parks staff to build a connecting trail segment near 30th avenue, while a second grant funded youth crew worked to build a trail segment down a steep hillside near 29th avenue. A trail segment connecting the dead ends of Central Blvd. near Laurelwood Golf Course and 29th Avenue completed the connection work.

The new trails allow pedestrian and bicycle access between 29th and 30th avenues and Central Blvd. Bicycle commuters and pedestrians are able to get off of busy 30th avenue to travel between neighborhoods south of 30th, Lane Community College and other destinations.

For more information, please contact City of Eugene Natural Resources Maintenance Specialist Jesse Cary-Hobbs at 541-682-4843 or [jesse.a.cary-hobbs@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:jesse.a.cary-hobbs@ci.eugene.or.us).





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## *Laurel Hill Valley Neighborhood Meeting*

*Wednesday, May 18th*

*6:30pm Plant, Seed & Garden Tool Exchange*

*7:00pm Meeting*

All uncredited material (including photos) by the newsletter editor, Deborah Kelly. Please send articles, comments and concerns to [dskharp@yahoo.com](mailto:dskharp@yahoo.com). Drawing of Empress tree seed pods on page 5 by Judith Sparks. Other drawings public domain clip art.

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](http://www.lhvc.org) or contact Sandy Tilcock, LHVC chair, 541-465-9079, [stilcock@gmail.com](mailto:stilcock@gmail.com)

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 if 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.