



Fairmount Neighbors

Spring 2013

URBAN FARMING AT ANNUAL MEETING

As many of you may have noticed, UO students have been busy converting some neighborhood lawns into brand new gardens, and two spots are well underway, each with a different program. The first space is on Moss Street, directly adjacent to the CASL (Center for the Advancement of Sustainable Living) house—it's the one with a converted Airstream mobile tool shed. Students have dubbed this garden 'The Grove,' and it is intended to be a student community garden in which student groups will lease spaces for growing food. We've been given a 3-year lease from the university to work there and, most likely, this space will be the prototype of the eventual gardens that will augment the CASL property. The second site is between Columbia Street and the alley across from Beppe and Giannis. With close access to Prince Pückler's and the Agate Street playground, this site offers a terrific opportunity to demonstrate local food production while creating a graceful transition from university-owned housing to private homes. We're calling this garden the 'Columbia Green,' and are really happy to be working with Campus Planning on its development. We are designing this space to be totally accessible to the neighborhood, with vegetable beds, demonstration stuff and lots of fruit. The 'Green' is an extension of the hugely popular Urban Farm class, and it allows us to teach another hundred students about gardening and where their food comes from. Madeline Carroll and I are planning to talk more about garden activities, the city's new urban farm animal codes, and a cool neighborhood agriculture mapping project at your May 21 neighborhood meeting. Looking forward to seeing you there.



—Harper Keeler, director UO Urban Farm Program

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Fairmount Neighbors Annual Meeting

May 21, 2013

7–9 p.m.

Fireside Room, Laurelwood Golf Course

Agenda will include:

- Election of board members and officers
- New standards for backyard farm animals
- What we should know about storing water for emergencies

May 21 is also election day

Remember to complete your ballot

Official drop sites opened May 3

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Have you met your neighbors? Do you know whom you might call in case of an emergency? Do you know who has a ladder or solar-powered radio or 4-wheel drive vehicle that they would share? Who has medical skills? Whom to contact in case of a power outage?

Nancy Reckord and Sandra Austin, who live on Fairmount, decided to do a pilot project based on the *Map Your Neighborhood* (MYN) concept. This winter, they finished the first phase by contacting and meeting with about 15 households in the Fairmount/Birch Lane and 15th to 17th St. area. After making a rough map of the neighborhood, they held a meeting, developed a contact list for the group, and collated a Neighborhood Skills and Equipment Inventory. The list included such things as who has ladders, chainsaws, camping equipment or generators and who has medical, carpentry, electrical or plumbing skills.

MYN is designed to improve disaster preparedness among neighbors. A disaster can be defined as an emergency larger than normal professional responders can cover. There have been many discussions in the media concerning preparedness, especially since the Japanese tsunami and Hurricane Sandy. At its general meetings, the Fairmount Neighbors Association has made some presentations about preparedness and is continuing to talk about one item per meeting, such as where to get emergency supplies, how long bottled water will last, and remembering to store extra food for your pets.

The Fairmount pilot group plans to meet again late this spring or early summer to discuss and refine its plan. It also sees this as a fun excuse to get together and meet neighbors!

Nancy and Sandra are very willing to consult with other areas of the Fairmount Neighborhood and help them set up similar programs. An approximate two-block area worked well for the pilot, and they hope this project will continue in small increments up Fairmount and branch out from there. For consultation or questions, contact Nancy Reckord, 541-302-1200, nreckord@comcast.net, or Sandra Austin, 541-343-3452, freda@efn.org.

Nine Easy Steps for Beginning Disaster Preparedness

- ⇒Buy a battery-powered or crank radio. Available at Eugene's Green Store and online.
- ⇒Place flashlights and extra batteries throughout the house and in the car.
- ⇒Have a cell phone (with charger) that can be charged in the car.
- ⇒Stockpile pet food.
- ⇒Hide cash in small denominations in different locations.
- ⇒Locate your gas and water turnoffs. Keep a wrench nearby to turn off the gas.
- ⇒Keep at least a week's supply of medications.
- ⇒Have a first-aid kit that's easy to grab. You might keep one in the car also.

Huge amounts of information about disaster preparedness are also available on the Web. Listed below are community resources for disaster preparedness. The City of Eugene and the state are good resources. Christine Shirley, a member of the Oregon Office of Emergency Management and a resident of our neighborhood, was helpful to the pilot project and is also willing to meet with other neighborhood groups.

- Eugene Emergency Management: www.eugene-or.gov/emergencymanagement
www.ready.gov
- Action Plan Eugene 541-344-2244 actionplaneugene@gmail.com
www.youtube.com/user/ActionPlanEugene
- Oregon Emergency Management www.oregon.gov/OMD/OEM
- US Geological Survey Earthquake Preparedness www.earthquake.usgs.gov/learning/preparedness
- Www.72hours.org



—Nancy Reckord and Sandra Austin

EDISON'S BUDGET

Continuing reductions to public education operating budgets are taking their toll on 4J schools. At our neighborhood school, Edison Elementary, the budget for the 2013–14 school year leaves Edison short one teacher and down many hours of critical instructional assistant (IA) time. This is sobering news. The result is that if we want to avoid blended grades and even larger class sizes, Edison's fundraising dollars that previously went to support physical education and music instruction will now be needed to ensure each classroom has a teacher and that we have basic instructional supports.

Over \$120,000 is needed to maintain the current level of teaching and instructional assistants (to say nothing of PE and music). Edison parent fundraising has never cracked the \$100,000 mark before, and we are coming into our last, but most favorite, fundraiser below our typical numbers. This is where you, our amazing neighborhood supporters, come in. On May 17, Edison will hold its 33rd annual Jog-a-Thon. We could run those kids around the track until they collapse, or we could count on you to increase your support this year. You can contribute a flat amount on the Edison website using PayPal or, when your local Edison student knocks on your door, you can pledge per mile or give a flat amount. Please, please give generously. The stakes are high. Edison will remain a thriving, sought-after anchor for our neighborhood only if we can continue to offer the comprehensive educational experience we think children should have—and this year in particular we need bountiful fundraising to be able to do that.

We love the Edison Jog-a-Thon because it is student-led, community-supported and just plain fun. Our students raised \$33,000 last year and, with your help, we'll raise \$44,000 this year. We may be behind the pack this year—and the finish line just got farther—but we know we can beat our personal best with your help. Go to Edison's website today to support our neighborhood school! <http://schools.4j.lane.edu/edison/>

Dine Out for Edison: We're grateful that two local businesses generously offered to support Edison Elementary by donating a portion of their revenues on special fundraising days. On May 7, McMenamins East 19th Street Café donated 50 percent of its evening sales. On May 22, from 11 a.m. to close, both the campus (879 E. 13th Ave.) and S. Eugene (2846 Willamette St.) locations of Yogurt Extreme will donate 25 percent of their sales to Edison. For a copy of the flyer to take with you, go to <http://schools.4j.lane.edu/edison/>

—Kari Parsons

UO STUDENTS' DAY OF SERVICE



On March 13, 2013, UO students participated in the UO Day of Service by weeding in Washburne Park (top row) and weeding and spreading bark on the wildflower trail in Hendricks Park Forest (bottom row). Thank you, volunteers!

AN ICON MOVES ON



The historic Campbell house at 1653 Fairmount Blvd has been home to three families since it was built in 1906 as the first farm house in the Fairmount community. The Campbells were instrumental in founding the Unitarian Church in Eugene. Bayard and Evelyn (Eve) McConnaughey purchased the house in 1969 and raised their five children there. Bayard died in 2002, and Eve moved to a retirement community last fall after selling the house to a family.

For the McConnaughey's 50th wedding anniversary, the children had a totem carved by a Native American wood carver. It found a home in front of the Campbell house and watched over the family. The figures on the totem, suggested by the children, are (from top to bottom):

- Bad elf, a character in many of Bayard's bedtime stories
- A giant clam shell (in Bad elf's hands) that came from son John's giant clam farm in Samoa
- Octopus, exemplifying Bayard and Eve's longstanding love of the ocean and marine research
- Squirrel (Fatso), the routine thief at the bird feeder who precipitated an escalating war with Eve
- Slugs (on the side of the totem), the bane of gardeners in the Willamette Valley
- Bullwhip kelp (on the sides of the totem). Eve used to harvest young kelp in the spring and make seaweed pickles. She was famous for her experimentation with seaweed dishes, and wrote a seaweed cookbook.



The totem now has a new home in Boise, Idaho, with son Ted. We miss Eve as a neighbor and the loving totem that stood guard over her front yard and the neighborhood.

—Sandra Austin, with information from Ted and Eve McConnaughey

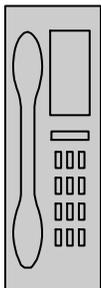
CALLING FOR NEIGHBORHOOD PHOTOS

DeeAnn Hall, proprietor of the Eugene City Bakery, has suggested we have a neighborhood photo exhibit on the walls of her bakery. Suggested were historic photos, photos of homes, buildings, persons and activates—anything of interest relevant to the neighborhood history and community. We would love to have your contributions to the exhibit. Please contact Sandra Austin (freda@efn.org or 541-343-3452) or DeeAnn (at the bakery).



—Sandra Austin

USEFUL CONTACT INFORMATION



For land-use complaints, go to www.eugene-or.gov/lucomplaint.
 For rowdy, noisy parties, call the police nonemergency line at 541-682-5111.
 If UO students are involved, send an email describing the situation to good-neighbor@oregon.edu.
 For issues relating to the Arena, send an email to fn.UOArena@gmail.com.
 For neighborhood issues not relating to the Arena, send an email to fn.board@gmail.com.
 The FNA website lists other resources for neighborhood and public safety:
<http://sites.google.com/site/fna411/safety>

—Camilla Bayliss

CENTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE LIVING (CASL)

CASL is a UO student group dedicated to teaching people how to live more sustainably: it offers students opportunities for hands-on learning through design, construction and experimentation at the CASL House, 1801 Moss Street. It hosts workshops, lectures and social events that connect students and community members by providing a venue for learning how to employ sustainable solutions in their own homes.



The CASL House is a model for sustainable living, and is currently undergoing two phases of construction.

Phase I has involved students retrofitting the original 1920's bungalow into a state-of-the-art space with living, dining, kitchen, bath and storage spaces. Phase II will be a three-bedroom addition where CASL co-directors will live while conducting research, hosting tours and facilitating on-going learning opportunities.

CASL is working toward meeting the rigorous Passive House standard of home construction. The house is very close to meeting that benchmark, and will eventually provide a model green home for students and the community to use for demonstrations, learning and gathering.

This term, we are installing rainwater collection cisterns, designing a beautiful wheelchair-accessible ramp, completing the rain garden that will help manage storm water, and sealing up our high-performance windows. Hopefully, we will have time to install our bamboo flooring and earthen plaster wall finish. If you have questions or would like to do any of these projects in your home, CASL would love to talk to you!

Upcoming Community Events include:

Spring Lecture Series hosted by CASL and a local business TBD. The series, "Green on the Inside," will focus on material reuse, recycling and DIY interior and furniture design. If you've got a coffee table that needs building, a dining room wall that needs some flair or a bedroom that needs redecorating, check our Facebook page for details: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/58119248161/>

CASL's 10th Birthday Party will be Sunday, May 19, from 1–4 p.m.. We'll have music, food, face painting, house and garden tours, and a silent auction. We welcome our Fairmont neighbors to join us and see what we're doing and how we can help you complete your green home projects!

Website: www.casl.uoregon.edu Email: casl@uoregon.edu

—Shannon Arms

HENDRICKS PARK HAPPENINGS

Forest Work Parties: Second Saturday of each month, 9 a.m. to noon, May 11, June 8, July 13, Sept. 14, Oct. 12, Nov. 9. Meet at F.M. Wilkins Picnic Shelter. Gloves, tools, water and snacks provided.

Rhododendron Garden Work Parties: Every Tuesday March through November, 9 a.m. to noon. Meet at the park office in the building below the garden's restrooms.

Park Tours: Sunday, May 19, 1 p.m. Native Plant Garden Tour with Emily Aune, native plant enthusiast and Hendricks Park gardener.

Sunday, June 2, 7 a.m. Enjoy an early morning bird tour with Allison and Tom Mickel, long-time members of Lane County Audubon Society and birders for 35 years.

These activities are supported by Friends of Hendricks Park and the City of Eugene.

—Sandra Austin

EDISON ESSAYS AT LANE COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Students in the fourth-grade class of Jenny Vondracek, an FN neighbor, were invited to participate in the ‘Sense of Place’ exhibit now showing at the Lane County Historical Society and Museum. The essays displayed on the walls are carefully composed and handwritten by the children. Many are accompanied by full-color drawings of an event or location. A surprisingly wide variety of locations and places are described—all sincere and often humorous. Favorite places include covered bridges in Cottage Grove, the New York City Library, a friend’s living room and an afternoon trip to Albertson’s for free cookies.

Continuing the spirit of collaboration...

the Jordan Schnitzer’s afterschool art club at Edison Elementary created a project in response to a section of the Lane County Historical Society’s ‘Eugene Coloring Book Project.’ The children’s project, titled ‘Our Eugene Coloring Book: Favorite Things of Eugene,’ is currently on display at the museum.

—Heather Kliever

GRASSHOPPERS have made the leap into the museum

April 30, 1971, Vol. X, No. 4

“Message to Mom by Erin N.”

Mom. This is the first time I have been here (at the GRASSHOPPER). I like it very much it is fun.

The Lane County Historical Museum recently received many volumes of the **GRASSHOPPER**, a child-written, -edited and -distributed neighborhood newspaper about current events for the years 1966–1974. Generous residents (with a very big thank you to Sandra Austin) contributed to the collection that has been photocopied and digitized for the museum’s archival collection. As I index the newspapers, many articles and thoughts stand out. Spelling errors and opinions are unique and lively. I do not believe there isn’t a dog, cat, hamster, turtle, squirrel, parakeet or other non-human neighborhood animal that was not mentioned at least once during the duration of the **GRASSHOPPER**’s publication run. The children gained access to senators, governors, university presidents and school board members. They sat in on city meetings, conducted safety studies of intersections and reported information in a candid and thoughtful manner. I learned that Steve Prefontaine advised the children to stay away from candy and that Nils Emilsson “has neat accent” (he was from Sweden). Multiple interviews with Tommy Williams (“*At Tommy Williams Plants with Leaves as Big as Your Face*”) always ended with the reporter receiving a flower. We are missing some volumes, so I would like to hear from neighbors who would be willing to either donate originals or allow us to copy their issues to create a complete set. We are also looking for any additional neighborhood newsletters written by children, such as the Moss St. Journal. Please email Heather Kliever, collections@lanecountyhistoricalsociety.org if you are able to contribute or have questions.

—Heather Kliever

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The Board of Fairmount Neighbors Association voted to solicit contributions to Sponsors in memory of William Ray, who passed away in December. Mr. Ray was the husband of Meg Kieran, who successfully represented us in two land use actions: the arena conditional use permit and the attempted zone change for row houses on Orchard Street. Sponsors was Mr. Ray’s favorite charity—it provides transitional housing and employment opportunities to people released from Oregon prisons and Lane County Jail. If you are interested in helping, please write a check to Sponsors. You can bring it to the May 21 neighborhood meeting or mail it to: Sponsors, Inc., 338 Highway 99 North, Eugene, OR 97402.

—Camilla Bayliss

MEET THE NEIGHBORS

Dani and Sean Emrick live in the Fairmount Neighborhood near Laurelwood golf course along with their three



high-school-aged children and several chickens. Asked how long they've been raising hens, Sean and their youngest daughter, Marin (see photo), thought it had been about 4 years. The first batch ended up with a loss of three: "one to a raccoon, one to a hawk—and one turned out to be a rooster." Asked what the best things are about raising chickens, they both laughed and said, "The eggs!" Then Marin added that the birds cleaned up around the yard. Sean happily declared the chickens to be "very low maintenance as well." They both highly recommend raising chickens in our urban neighborhood.



—Lucia Hardy

Revised Backyard Farmer Standards

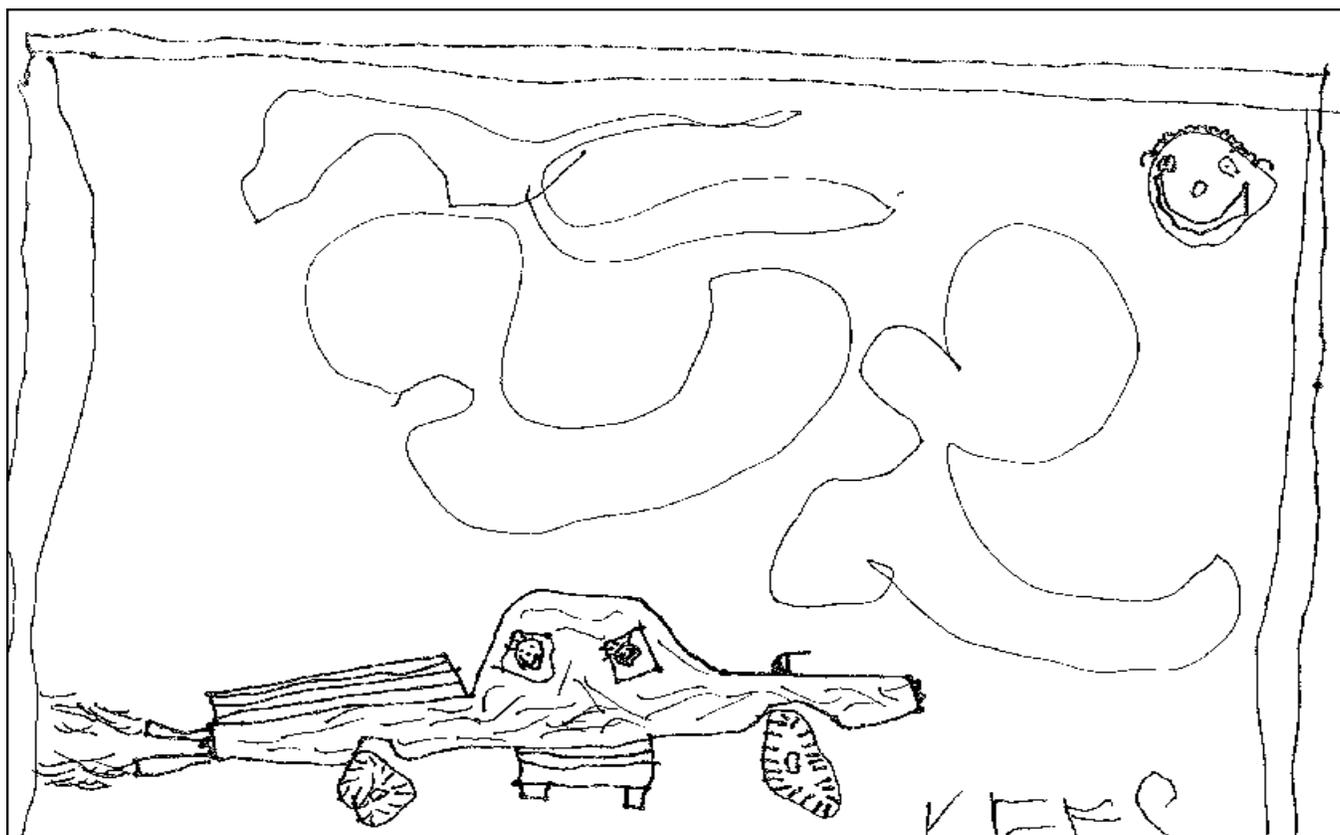
The new standards increase the number and kinds of animals. Urban farmers can now pick any two of the following four categories:

- up to 6 chickens or other domestic fowl
- up to 6 rabbits
- up to 3 mini-goats or 1 mini-pig
- up to 3 beehives.

A description can be found at <http://www.eugene-or.gov/?nid=2389> along with a link to a pdf document that describes the standards more fully.

—Sandra Austin

KIDS' CORNER: by Kees, age 6½





FNA BOARD MEMBERS

Camilla Bayliss & Lucia Hardy, co-chairs

Jim Lobben, treasurer

Nancy Reckord, secretary

Sandra Austin, newsletter

John Barofsky, Madeline Carroll

Sue Jakobosky, Daniel Klute

Kay Porter, Josh Reckord

Kay Rose, David Sonnichsen

Board members can be contacted at: fn.board@gmail.com

Web page at <http://sites.google.com/site/fna411>

Thank you to Boulevard Grill for providing a meeting place for the board.

This is the official newsletter of the Fairmount Neighborhood Association. 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 Fairmount Neighborhood Association.