

EUGENE EMERALDS 50TH ANNIVERSARY
T-SHIRTS ARE HERE!
BRING IN YOUR RAINCHECKS
1251 LINCOLN *Weekly*



Our favorite things

Fashionable hats, warm shawls and scarves, distinctive jewelry and clothes that feel and look so good!

Folkways
 Clothing, Jewelry & Gifts

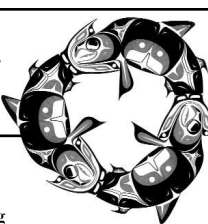
Meridian Building 18th & Willamette 431-3411
 Fifth St. Public Market Second Level 484-3668



Darin J. Ward DDS PC, F.A.G.D.
 Fellow of the Academy of General Dentistry
Health Centered Dentistry

300 Country Club Rd. Ste. 290 • Eugene, OR 97401

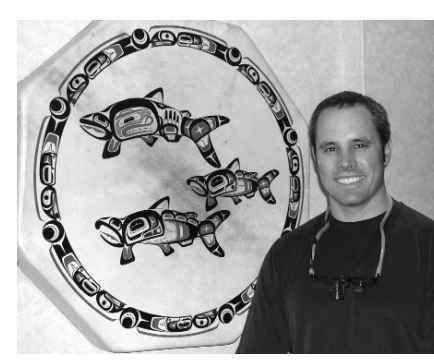
At Health Centered Dentistry, we focus on your overall wellness. By taking a holistic approach and arranging for health rather than merely treating disease, we offer an opportunity to restore your oral health to its optimum.



We look at the whole picture, consider systemic health and underlying factors, and take steps to perfect your smile while preventing problems before they occur. Friendly faces welcome you in a relaxing, stress-free environment to ensure you are as comfortable as possible.

Call today and experience the benefits we offer with the extraordinary people and unique setting only Health Centered Dentistry can provide.

(541) 686-2441



LE PETIT GOURMET CAKES, PIES & COOKIES

Introducing World Café

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY

WITH FOODS & DESSERTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

COMPLIMENTARY LE PETIT DESSERT WITH DINNER

A joint venture between Le Petit Gourmet and New Day Bakery

PIZZA • BEER & WINE • WEEKLY SPECIALS

449 BLAIR BLVD. • EUGENE, OR • 485-1377

Sunday-Thursday 4pm-9pm • Friday-Saturday 4pm-10pm

CALZONES • FAJITAS

STIR FRY • TEMPEH BURGERS

FISH & CHIPS • BAKED PASTAS



Third Vote Monty

Police try to sneak huge new offices past voters.

Eugene voters have twice rejected a big new police station. But this third time, with the police department gripped by officer sex crime and racial profiling scandals, the city is hoping to sneak in a yes vote.

The ballot title and question for Measure 20-88 refer to \$6.8 million in bonds for some vague "civic center vision project" that most voters have never heard of. Not until 150 words into the text of the measure does the word "police" appear. Many voters may not realize that they're voting on spending \$36 million of taxpayer money for a new police station.

And that may be exactly the idea. The controversial police station has already failed twice at the polls. With the scandals this year, far more citizens are calling for police reform than for an expensive new police station.

Proponents of the police station measure, lead by Republican Mayor Jim Torrey, argue that "Measure 20-88 is NOT a vote for a new police station."

"Of course it's about the police station," responds Councilor Bonny Bettman.

Buried in the ballot measure summary itself is the fact that some of the bond measure will go to "meeting the estimated 10 year Police Department space expansion needs." A city information sheet on the measure shows that at least \$2 million of the bond measure will go to help fund a bigger police station.

But more important is the likelihood that cop shop boosters will take a yes vote on the confusing measure as a mandate to push to spend another \$29 million in taxpayer money the city has squirreled away internally to complete the police station.

Bettman says a vote against the measure would send the message that voters don't want the city to spend the \$29 million on the police station. Councilors could ignore the vote only at their political peril, she says. "The voters in this situation will have a huge impact."

The city accumulated that \$29 million fat nest egg by years of diverting tax money while cutting citizen services, raising taxes and increasing swimming pool and other fees. Council conservatives, backed by city staff, support blowing all the taxpayer money they've squirreled away on the new police station.

But while cop boosters think a lavish new police station is the city's top priority, citizens don't. In a recent unscientific *EW* poll, not a single person said they'd spend the \$29 million city surplus on a new police station. Forty percent of respondents favored using the money to support local schools instead. Buying parkland came in second at 31 percent, fixing potholes third at 26 percent followed by paying off police lawsuits (19%), running the library (19%), community policing (17%) and refunding taxpayers (12%).

Many respondents were angry that the city was ignoring two votes against the police station. "What part of 'NO' and 'NO' didn't the City Council understand?" wrote one reader.

While the city has been accumulating

the \$29 million, it has ignored a host of other pressing needs, such as \$90 million in pothole repairs and \$40 million in natural areas threatened by development. Other needs include a huge backlog of neighborhood traffic calming work, a homeless shelter, domestic violence enforcement, and planning staff to protect the city's livability and environment.

Councilors Bettman and David Kelly say they want to use the \$29 million to build a combined police station and new City Hall a couple years from now.

To help sell the third cop shop measure, the city has promised to spend about 7 percent of the \$36 million project's price tag on some space in the police building for domestic violence non-profits who in turn are campaigning for the measure.

But city documents indicate the city plans to charge about \$13 a square foot in rent for the space to cover operations and maintenance. That's 20 times more than rents in other nearby commercial offices and it's unclear the non-profits will be able to afford it.

WITH THE SCANDAL THIS YEAR FAR MORE CITIZENS ARE CALLING FOR POLICE REFORM THAN FOR AN EXPENSIVE NEW POLICE STATION.

Arguments that the cops need to double their office space have failed to convince voters. Space in the current police station in City Hall is similar to per-officer space in Portland and Salem. With the police forensics and property units and downtown fire station moving out into new buildings, there's even more room now for the cops.

In the future, police may actually need less headquarters space if they move to a precinct model favored by many other cities with community policing.

The earthquake argument is also getting shakier. The police forensics and property units have already moved out of the basement of City Hall. City studies have also shown that City Hall could be remodeled for earthquakes at a cost of \$500,000 to \$4.3 million, far less than the \$405 per square foot the city wants to spend on a new cop shop. By comparison, mansions in Eugene often run less than half that for the same space.

The city shouldn't have tried to slip a police station past voters with a confusing ballot, Councilor Betty Taylor says. Instead, the city should have put the entire \$36 million funding package for the police station out in the open for a straight-forward vote, she says. "I don't think we should be hiding things from voters." **EW**