

news Briefs

CPA won enactment of one of the country's most innovative local toxics right-to-know programs, and has defended it ever since. And the group helped keep the Willamette riverfront from being over-developed with a "poorly planned" Riverfront Research Park.

CPA and its members have helped organize and train local activists and contributed expertise to local struggles to preserve Eugene's environment, such as lobbying to prevent overdevelopment on Moon Mountain and in the Amazon Creek headwaters, helping save small farms from gravel pit development, fighting the West Eugene Parkway, helping elect progressive city councilors, mayors and commissioners, and weighing in on the re-design of Eugene's land-use and planning policies.

For more information, e-mail spencerj@efn.org

CITY TO SNUFF LOOPHOLE?

The Eugene City Council voted May 23 to prepare revisions to standards on outdoor smoking areas.

In 2000, the city banned smoking inside places of employment including bars and restaurants to protect public health. But the council continued to allow smoking in outdoor areas of establishments and left it to city staff to set up administrative rules. The rules required that only 25 percent of the walls of an

"outside" smoking area be actually open to the air, a huge loophole that at least 40 bars have taken advantage of in constructing nearly enclosed smoking areas, many complete with lighting and heating. Non-smokers who want to sit outside often can't do so without being forced to inhale second-hand smoke.

Other cities have much tighter rules for their outdoor smoking areas, according to city staff research. New York State, which has one of the most thriving restaurant and bar industries in the nation, allows smoking in only outside areas with no roof or ceiling enclosure and then only in a separate part of the outdoor area not to exceed 25 percent of the outdoor seating.

Arlington, Ohio, requires separate smoking patios to either have no roof or only two walls. Massachusetts bans any walls or side coverings from outdoor smoking areas.

A public hearing on the proposed new Eugene rules is expected in the next four months. — Alan Pittman

HOLIDAY DEADLINES

Eugene Weekly offices will be closed Monday, May 30, for Memorial Day. Editorial deadlines for our June 2 issue will not change, but advertising will have early deadlines. To reserve space for display ads, please call by Thursday noon, May 26. For classified ads, please call by 5 pm Friday, May 27. Questions? Call 484-0519.



#1 for Summer Fun!

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★ Men's and Women's HEMP clothing from Sweetgrass, Hempy's, Naked & More

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