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classes and fund raisers. Councilors had asked if the fee could be reduced or waived for the non-profit, as is done for some other types of property owners, but city staff said that current city code doesn't allow a reduction or waiver for the Garden Club. They said the club could get a loan to pay the money off at \$175 a month for 10 years.

The city uses a complicated formula for charging land owners in the West University Neighborhood for its alley improvement program. Half of the cost of each alley is charged to properties based on their alley frontage. The other half is charged to properties within 160

feet of the alley based on their square footage. Each property gets a weighting factor from one to 10 based on its use as a home, store, office, etc. — Alan Pittman

## SILENT SUMMER

Since the Pesticide Use Reporting System (PURS) was created by the Oregon Legislature in 1999, it has not once been implemented. Why? Pesticide industry lobbyists have successfully strong-armed legislators to keep

PURS funding out of the state budget for six years running (see "Strength Through Weakness," EW 6/2).



At a public forum on June 1, Lane County Commissioner and gubernatorial candidate Pete Sorenson advocated to change that. In addition to supporting PURS, which would require all herbicide spraying in Oregon to be reported, Sorenson advocates allowing counties to make their

own decisions about herbicides for the next 10 years.

According to Amy Pincus Merwin of the Forestland Dwellers' No-Spray Group, the use of herbicides is a serious public health concern. "The only benefit is to the people who manufacture them," she says.

Herbicides are sprayed over forests from helicopters, which is supposedly the most efficient way of dispensing them. But this method allows herbicides to be dispersed by the wind, so that the affected area is uncontrollable. One component of "Agent Orange," the carcinogen used to defoliate jungles during the Vietnam War, is still being used as an herbicide in Oregon forests.

The town of Deadwood has "a history of three different clusters of herbicide poisoning related diseases, most recently latent or slow growing cancers," says Pincus Merwin. She herself developed cancer after exposure to a now-illegal component of Agent Orange.

She says Imperial Chemicals, one of the world's leading producers of herbicides, also produces Novadex, the leading breast cancer drug.

There are alternatives to the use of herbicides. One, called the "waipuna" method, kills brush through the use of hot foam. The other alternative is simply not to clear-cut and to manage forests sustainably, leaving the diverse plants that naturally exist in a healthy forest.

The Forestland Dwellers' No Spray Group will soon have a website at [www.forestdwellersno-spray.org](http://www.forestdwellersno-spray.org) for those who want more information or want to get involved.

— Ursula Evans-Heritage



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## YOUTH FARM OPENS SOON

The FOOD For Lane County (FFLC) Youth Farm Project, now in its seventh consecutive season, will once again open its organic produce stand at the Farm's Springfield location Saturday, June 18. The stand offers a wide variety of seasonal organic produce at very affordable prices.

Everything is grown on site by a crew of low-income youth ages 14-18. The Youth Farm was started in 1998 to provide young people with little economic prospects the opportunity to participate in a cooperative organic garden while earning an income at the same time. The farm employs a seasonal crew chosen from a diverse group of at-risk youth throughout the area and is situated in an economically depressed part of Springfield where organic products can be otherwise hard to find.

Drop-in volunteer opportunities are available to anyone at the farm on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9 am to 2 pm. The stand is located at 705 Flamingo Ave. off Game Farm Road in Springfield and will be open from 10 am to 2 pm every Saturday through September. For more information visit the FFLC website at [www.foodforlanecounty.org](http://www.foodforlanecounty.org)

— Dave Constantin

## CORRECTIONS/ CLARIFICATIONS

Local historian Doug Moss tells us Eugene Skinner built his cabin in the fall of 1846, not in 1847 as reported in our "Urban Farming" news brief last week.