

KidZone activities for families, Health and Well-Being educational displays, a pet parade and regional and local food vendors.

STATEWIDE CONFAB COMING

A statewide conference entitled "The Promise of Paradise" is being planned for Sept. 15-16 at the UO. Among the breakout

session topics are transportation, economic development, the "Big Look," Measure 37, and planning technology. Keynote speakers will include Mayor Kitty Piercy and Ellen Lowe, who will talk about "Reclaiming Our Oregon." Early registration is available at www.lcog.org/opi

The "Big Look" refers to a comprehensive review of Oregon's land use program negotiated between Oregon House and Senate leaders in the legislative session that just wrapped up. In conjunction with SB 82, a \$600,000 appropriation will commission

a new Oregon Task Force on Land Use Planning. The committee will make an interim report to the 2007 Legislature and issue a final report to the 2009 Legislature.

GET ON BOARD

The annual recruitment for city of Eugene boards, committees and commissions is now under way and concludes with a Sept. 9 paperwork deadline. Applicants are being

sought for several advisory and intergovernmental panels.

Open positions include the Planning Commission, Budget Committee, Human Rights Commission, Historical Review Board, LRAPA, Toxics Board, Metro Wastewater, and Whilamut Citizen Planning Committee.

Candidates will be interviewed Oct. 4-6, the City Council will take action on appointments Oct. 24 and terms will begin Nov. 1. For information, call 682-5406 or visit www.eugene-or.gov

SLANT

• A full house turned out at City Club in late July to hear former Eugene 4J Superintendent Tom Payzant talk about education. Payzant, in his five tumultuous years here in the 1970s, gave us public kindergartens and alternative schools. Now he's superintendent of Boston Public Schools, and he's still pushing a maverick agenda, predicting Boston will have full-day public preschool for 4-year-olds in the next few years. Didn't say how he'd pay for it. Boston also has alternative schools, but they come with rules on who gets to attend. Half the seats are reserved for kids within walking distance. His talk was taped for broadcast Aug. 8 on KLCC 89.7 FM. We hear KLCC is considering broadcasting Friday City Club meetings every Monday evening, instead of every other Monday. KLCC's Adrienne Wilson left to pursue a career in library science, so the station is eyeing her Civic Conversations time slot that alternated with City Club. Providing more high-quality local issues content is always a good idea. A decision is expected before City Club resumes in September. Might want to send the KLCC managers a note (www.klcc.org).



Tom Payzant

• All's quiet in Salem this week after the 2005 Legislature fizzled to a close.

Important state business was left undone. Measure 37 implementation remains unresolved – not such bad news considering the failed plan endorsed by Kulongoski would have allowed eased land-use restrictions to be passed on to new owners. Let's hope the whole M37 mess is ruled unconstitutional in the circuit court challenge by 1000 Friends of Oregon. Sighs of relief followed news that schools survived attempted evisceration, but education funding for the future is left hanging, while our flawed and unfair state tax system continues unchallenged under Kulongoski's "leadership." Civil unions will likely go to the voters in 2006. Conservatives who campaigned so effectively for the ban on gay marriages last November are confident they will get an equally strong turnout to fight civil unions, but we predict a very different fight. "Same-sex marriage" still stirs a gut reaction in many Oregonians, but "civil unions" does not carry that emotional baggage. House Speaker Karen Minnis managed to keep SB 1000 from a floor vote, worried that it would pass. Her ideology and undemocratic tactics make her a big target if she seeks a fifth term in 2006. She represents a conservative suburban area east of Portland, but it's not *that* conservative.

• Thousands of gatherings were held around the world this past weekend to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and to mourn the 300,000 who died. Most events were organized by peace activists, but not every hawk refrained from squawking. An e-mail from the Ayn Rand Institute (www.aynrand.org) declared that "America should be proud to have dropped the Bomb," and notes that "in the reconstruction of Japan there were no insurgents, no Japanese roadside bombs killing our soldiers. ... Our military strategists in Iraq could learn from those who, 60 years ago, decided to spare no means in bringing the Japanese nation to its knees." Unfortunately, such an idiotic comparison makes perfect sense to many across our nation who would just as soon see the entire Middle East "turned to glass."

• We wrote a bit in this column last week about the problems associated with people downtown who are transient and/or homeless, and we got some good news as we were going to press. ShelterCare's Shankle Safe Haven in Glenwood has

received funding for four additional beds for overnight shelter. The facility can now accommodate 16 adults with severe mental illness for the next two years. Eugene has some residents who choose the vagabond life temporarily to escape conventional responsibilities, but most people we see begging on street corners, sleeping in alleys and camping along the river are simply incapable of holding jobs and managing resources. Many end up in psychiatric wards or in jail, burdening taxpayers. Hats off to organizations such as ShelterCare and its 35 years of dedicated work. To get involved, call 686-1262.

• Hey people! Let's get those Best of Eugene ballots turned in so we can start counting. Look for the full-page ballots in our last few issues.

Check your birdcage, unwrap those fish. Stains will not disqualify your ballot. Well, some stains. Be sure to put your name and phone number at the bottom. We'll be giving away a getaway for two at the Oregon Coast and some EW T-shirts. But ya gotta do the ballot thing. Can't find a ballot anywhere? Check our website for a printable ballot to be mailed in, faxed or dropped off.



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