

FOOD SECURITY TOWN HALL III

The third in a series of food security town halls will address the health outcomes and impacts of diet-related illnesses; creating a resilient, food secure community in the aftermath of a natural disaster; rebuilding the local food system to address regional food security; what local elected officials can do to aide in the process; and provide information on local programs and projects addressing food security in Lane County.

The free event will be from 6:30 to 8 pm Wednesday, April 28, at Harris Hall, 125 E 8th Ave. in Eugene. The event is sponsored by County Commissioners Pete Sorenson and Rob Handy, and Mayor Kitty Piercy. Panelists so far include:

- Dan Armstrong, a novelist and editor of the local website Mud City Press, and a member of the Lane County Food Policy Council and the Southern Willamette Valley Bean and Grain Project.
- Linda Cook, emergency manager with the Lane County Sheriff's Office and specialist in emergency preparedness and creating a resilient community in the face of natural disasters.
- Megan Kemple, Farm to School Program coordinator with the Willamette Farm and Food Coalition (WFFC), a community based nonprofit committed to developing a more secure and sustainable food system within Lane County.
- Laurie Trieger, executive director of Lane County Healthy Active Youth (LCHAY), a nonprofit, community advocacy organization dedicated to the prevention of childhood obesity and related diseases.

IMMIGRANTS RALLY FOR REFORM

CAUSA Oregon is trying to get the word out in Eugene about the need for immigration reform. Ranfis Villatoro, organizer for CAUSA (Oregon's Immigrant Rights Coalition) says current immigration

policies are "breaking up families, but not really fixing the problems."

CAUSA has put on several recent events to draw attention to a bill in Congress that supporters say would resolve many of the issues with immigration, from families split apart due to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids, to the exploitation of workers and security issues at the border.

Comprehensive Immigration Reform for America's Security and Prosperity (CIR-ASAP) Act of 2009 (HR 4321) was introduced in December, and Villatoro says among its 95 co-sponsors is Oregon Congressman Earl Blumenauer. Villatoro says that while at least five of Oregon's congressional representatives have committed to working to pass reform legislation, CAUSA has not gotten any support from Rep. Peter DeFazio.

DeFazio says, "My staff and I have met numerous times with leaders in the pro-immigrants rights community both in my Washington and Eugene offices. I believe it is imperative my office be accessible and have an open ear to all constituents, even if we don't agree on all aspects of proposed legislation."

CAUSA has been canvassing door-to-door and hosting rallies. Villatoro says a recent rally in downtown Eugene drew 400 participants but didn't receive media coverage. On April 17, CAUSA hosted a prayer vigil at DeFazio's house in Springfield with over 80 participants mainly from St. Alice Catholic Church of Springfield and St. Mary's Catholic Church of Eugene, according to Villatoro. The vigil featured song and prayer, and participants held candles and signs calling on DeFazio to support HR 4321.

Villatoro says, "People from his neighborhood came out and supported us." He says one neighbor even used his car to provide additional lighting.

DeFazio responded saying, "No political organization has crossed the line and conducted a 'vigil' or any other political activity at my home except for Jim Feldkamp's campaign six years ago. I have an office; this type of political activity is best directed there." Feldkamp was a Republican challenger to DeFazio's congressional seat in 2004.

"The immigrant community is going to come out and let DeFazio know where they



PHOTO: CAUSA OREGON

• **Earth Day is upon us**, and as much as we would like every day to be Earth Day, it's good that we set aside one time each year, as the earth is waking up, to celebrate Mama Nature and her awe-inspiring gifts. Do people get weary of reading environmental stories? Do the words "global warming" and "sustainability" make your eyes glaze over? Maybe. So we try to mix in some fun with serious topics. Wrestling with blackberry vines in the nude? That sounds like great fun and a memorable adventure. But what keeps Earth Day really vibrant is all the activities that go with it. We encourage everyone to get out this weekend and dive into one or more of the many events that honor and celebrate the source and foundation of all life on our planet.

• How should Eugene plan for **projected population growth** of about 35,000 people in the next 20 years? This week, as we go to press, the City Council is reviewing the findings of the Eugene Comprehensive Lands Assessment, and an "Envision Eugene" community workshop is being planned for May 4 at the Eugene Hilton (see www.envisioneugene.org). The "public engagement component" of the Envision Eugene project is expected to cost about \$500,000 (yep, that's the right number of zeroes), according to a memo to the council April 14 from Planning Director Lisa Gardner. Consultant and facilitator Bob Chadwick's services will cost \$50,000, and about \$400,000 is earmarked for "extensive legal and technical work and analysis."

Why the huge investment? Eugeneans are deeply polarized on the topic of growth and expansion of the urban growth boundary is a huge issue. Every assumption, conclusion, recommendation and interpretation of state mandates will be challenged. Is consensus even possible?

For starters, city planners raise the question of whether we need to expand our urban growth boundary by 1,850 acres, but Eugene already has a relatively low population per square mile and an abundance of unused land within the UGB and even downtown. Unfortunately, the deck is stacked against the residents of Eugene, who do not favor sprawl, and in favor of some planners, the council majority and land speculators who appear not so concerned with loss of farm land and the multiple other costs of urban expansion.

Here is a golden opportunity for Mayor Piercy to use her bully pulpit to advocate for much higher population density, a key to true sustainability. And in the May and November local elections, let's work to vote people into office who actually understand these issues.

• We hear the **Network Charter School (NCS)** in downtown Eugene is in a pickle. The school's lease is running out in June, and negotiations with the city to buy an empty city-owned building at 858 Pearl have broken down. Looks like the costs of buying the building and bringing it up to code are beyond the school's resources. "This is an emergency for NCS," says Executive Director Mary Leighton in an email to supporters this week. "We desperately need help to persuade the City Council that accepting an offer from us would demonstrate good stewardship of community resources – both the property, on which they have not received an offer better than ours, and the students, who benefit from our free, public program, often after failing elsewhere." The city would be wise to make whatever concessions are needed to keep this small, but vitally important, educational institution downtown.

• It was great to hear Gov. **Kulongoski put conservation** at the top of his list to combat climate change on April 14 to a full house in the UO Law School. We all know why political leaders continue to shy away from conservation, but Ted nailed it, the "fastest, cheapest way to reduce carbon dioxide." He also gave advice we should hear in green Eugene: Preserve historic buildings, consider downtowns and put old buildings to new use, keep them out of the waste stream. We think of Civic Stadium, the downtown post office, Mac Court and the EWEB steam plant. The Centre Court building at Broadway and Willamette, once a shining, bustling Penny's store, is targeted for restoration, a step in the right direction. How about our own aging City Hall? It would be a whole lot cheaper to fix it up and reinforce it than to build a new one.

• Still have your Friday, April 16 R-G? Check out Section D, "Oregon Life," page 2, for a **cute little illustration** in an Unkle Nancy publicity photo that somehow slipped by the editors. If it was ever on the R-G website, it's now gone forever.

SLANT includes short opinion pieces, observations and rumor-chasing notes compiled by the EW staff. Heard any good rumors lately? Contact Ted Taylor at 484-0519, editor@eugeneweekly.com

Lane Area Herbicide Spray Schedule

• **ODOT** was delayed by weather again and will start spraying the week of April 19 on Highway 99 North from Eugene to Junction City, I-5, Beltline, and I-105, all within ODOT District 5 (Lane County). Call District 5 at 744-8080 or (888) 996-8080 for herbicide application information. See forestlanddwellers.org/News/2010-News/ODOT

• Near **Cedar Flat Creek**: Oregon Forest Management Services (896-3757) will ground spray 34 acres with Velpar, Sulfometuron Methyl, and Transline herbicides near Cedar Flat Road for Weyerhaeuser (988-7502) starting soon (Notice No. 771-00405).

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