

LIBRARY PULLS TOXIC RECEIPTS

In response to customer demand, the Eugene Public Library system has ceased printing receipts on paper that contains isphenol-A (BPA), a chemical that various studies have linked to asthma, heart disease, cancer and diabetes.

In thermal paper, BPA reacts with the heat of thermal printers to produce the markings on receipts. Some thermal paper doesn't contain BPA, but the different types of receipts appear identical. The library generates receipts each time readers check out books.

The Register-Guard reported on July 19, "Prompted by news coverage in April of the potential harm of isphenol-A, library users and staff members raised the issue of the chemical-laced paper."

The "news coverage" mentioned by the *R-G* was likely the April 15 *EW* breaking news story "Toxic Receipts" by Deborah Bloom, which reported on the possible health affects of BPA coated receipts.

"We learned more about BPA this spring, and soon we started looking around for alternative paper," says LaVena Norhenberg, Eugene Public Library's customer experience manager. "It was something we've looked at from time to time, but more products without BPA are made now."

Norhenberg says the BPA-free paper replaced the old paper as it began to run out at various check-outs two weeks ago.

BPA can interact with hormone receptors, mimicking the hormone estrogen. The sensitivity and intricacy of the endocrine system means that endocrine-disruptors can cause disruption to normal processes in relatively small doses.

Plastic containers for food often contain BPA as well. In January, the FDA announced that BPA may well be more harmful than previously reported.

Receipts have the potential to deliver even more BPA than food containers. In plastics, BPA is part of a larger structure whose bonds allow only some BPA to disassociate from the plastic and leach into liquid or food. However, BPA in receipts is free, not a part of a larger structure. Therefore, it can more easily transfer from receipts to hands to other areas of the skin, or from receipts to money, or from receipts to hands to food.

John C. Warner, organic chemist and co-founder of the Babcock-Warner Institute for Green Chemistry, who first discovered the enormous presence of BPA in sales receipts almost a decade ago, told *EW* in April that receipts are consumers' largest source of BPA-exposure.

— Shannon Finnell

LTD DENIES CLAIMS IN EMX FLYER

An anonymous flyer circulating in Lane County claims that "LTD and EmX are tearing the HELL out of our streets, economy & bus service." The flyer says Lane Transit District is wasting money and claims that the West Eugene extension of EmX bus rapid transit will be bad for business, bad for roads and bad for trees and will discourage bike riding.

"There has been a concerted effort by some who are of the opinion EmX is not a good strategy," says LTD spokesperson Andy Vobora this week. "Unfortunately, the information they provide is less than accurate and doesn't foster a healthy dialogue. The information creates fear and fear creates anxiety and anger, which appears to be one of their goals."

Vobora says LTD has gone through an extensive environmental analysis of its plans for the EmX, and LTD has sought input from environmentalists, bicyclists and others.

"The Rosa Parks multi-use path in

Happening people BY PAUL NEEVEL

RAY WOLFE (REVISITED)



June 2002: A Navy pilot in the Philippines theater during WW II, Ray Wolfe flew nighttime bombing missions in the Formosa Straits. Afterwards, he completed a doctorate in biochemistry, then taught chemistry and conducted research in enzymology at the UO until his retirement in 1983. "All those years I studied one enzyme, pivotal for getting energy from food," he notes. "Our data led us to a model

that hasn't been disproven since 1968." A political activist since the 1960s, Wolfe took part in the Future Power Committee campaign that blocked EWEB's participation in the WPPSS nuclear power plant fiasco. "We saved Eugene taxpayers \$50-60 million," he says. More recently, he has opposed "growth at any cost" projects like the West Eugene Parkway through involvement with Friends of Eugene and Citizens for Public Accountability. At age 82, Wolfe is in his fifth year as producer, technician, and editor of *In the Public Interest*, a weekly half-hour interview program on Community Access TV.

2010 update: After 64 years of marriage, all but 10 in Eugene, Ray and Barbara Wolfe will move someday soon (as soon as they can sell their house) to Ashland to be close to their daughter Katherine and her family. Many of Ray Wolfe's archived *Public Interest* interviews will continue to air on CATV.

"Ray is a one-man army - he continues to fight the good fight," says activist Cary Thompson. *In the Public Interest* airs at 6 pm Wednesdays and Fridays.



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