

and Friends of the Ridgeline are hosting a day of activities along the Ridgeline trail from 9 am to 1 pm Saturday, April 23. Guided bird walks, bike rides, butte hikes, ecology strolls, music and snacks will be provided. Additionally, volunteer opportunities will be available to improve the trail, clear invasive species and move gravel. For more information, and to sign up: lorna.j.baldwin@ci.eugene.or.us

Also on Saturday, the Science Factory in Eugene will hold an open house and children's activities from 10 am to 4 pm at 2300 Leo Harris Pkwy. "The exhibit hall and seasonal star show will be free, and we will have recycled seed planters for children to plant seeds in and take home," Hilary Kretchmer, Science Factory's marketing manager, explained.

See these events and more in our Calendar this week. — Heather Cyrus

PENNY POLL MEASURES PUBLIC'S PRIORITIES

Activists gathered at the Eugene downtown post office on Tax Day, April 18,

to challenge militarism and corporate greed and to call for the re-ordering of federal spending priorities from supporting war to meeting human and environmental needs.

Not as many people were outside the post office this year since more and more people now file their tax forms electronically, but about 100 people were found who were willing to participate in the annual "penny poll." Participants were handed 10 pennies and asked to deposit them in jars representing six categories of federal budget.

Participants budgeted human resources at 62.5 percent this year, up from 50 percent last year. Physical resources got 21.8 percent compared to 25.5 percent last year. General government got 6.2 percent, down from 12 percent last year.

Spending on the military (not including current wars) was 3.9 percent, up from 2 percent last year; while spending on the Iraq and Afghan wars was only .2 percent, even less than last year's 1.5 percent. Payments on the national debt came in at 5.4 percent, down from last year's 9 percent.

"Eugene taxpayers have clearly had it with the Iraq/Afghanistan wars and want their elected officials to do more to bring these wars to an immediate end," says Michael Carrigan of CALC, one of the

organizers of the event. "If Eugene residents ran the federal government things would be significantly different — their tax dollars would be funding social and environmental programs and not endless war."

Local war tax resisters, who object to more than half of their federal taxes going to the military, were given the opportunity to redirect their "war" taxes to local organizations. Planned Parenthood, White Bird Clinic and ShelterCare were on hand to receive donations through event coordinator Peg Morton of Taxes For Peace Not War.

Peace activists were joined by activists from Eugene-Springfield Solidarity Network-Jobs with Justice and Industrial Workers of the World who spoke out against corporate greed and for a more equitable system of taxation.

WOW GETS GRANT FOR DOWNTOWN

The WOW Hall, legendary nonprofit venue for some of the best music acts that come through Eugene, has been awarded a \$13,241 city of Eugene Neighborhood Matching Grant for the West 8th Collaborative neighborhood improvement

project. Working in collaboration with FOOD for Lane County and Metro Affordable Housing, the WOW Hall, also known as the Community Center for the Performing Arts, proposed the grant in efforts to better the presentation of its surrounding environment and make downtown safer.

"Landscaping, lighting, and (bike) locks" will be the primary use of the provided funds, says Michelle Smith, WOW Hall board treasurer and program services director of Metropolitan Affordable Housing Corporation. Smith says that there is a negative perception of the downtown area that she and her fellow neighbors and co-workers are trying to change. "Visual perception matters, environment affects attitude. We want to help people who live here feel safer and encourage more folks to come down here," she says.

According to Smith, a great deal of cooperation with neighborhood watch groups as well as local crime prevention specialists aided in the design of the proposal. The new recipients of the grant are also hoping that the shift in visual aesthetic and additional safety measures will encourage residents and patrons to lend a hand and be more proactive about keeping the downtown area cleaner. — Dante Zuiiga-West

ACTIVIST ALERT

• "Curbing Climate Change, One Bite at a Time" is the topic at City Club of Eugene at 11:50 am Friday, April 22, at the Hilton Hotel top floor. Speaker are Dan Armstrong of Mud City Press, Sarah Kleeger of Open Oak Farms, and Dale Lugenbehl of LCC.

• County Commissioner Pete Sorenson will be hosting an **Earth Day Forum** on the Greenhouse Gas Effects of Local Transportation Planning beginning at 9 am Saturday, April 23, at Campbell Center, 155 High St. in Eugene. Speakers will include numerous state and local officials, along with transportation and land use activists.

• **Canvassing in south Eugene** in support of the temporary income tax on the May ballot will begin with a gathering at 10 am Saturday, April 23, at the South Eugene High School cafeteria. The next canvassing day for north Eugene will be at 10 am Saturday, April 30, at Cascade Middle School, 1525 Echo Hollow Road. To phone, write a letter, endorse, or donate, visit www.StrongSchoolsEugene.org

• The UO Dance Department is sponsoring a performance of traditional **West African music and dance** at 2 pm and 8 pm Saturday, April 23, in the Dougherty Dance Theatre on campus. The performances will benefit stove

projects in Africa and South America, and is supported by StoveTeam International. Former members of some of the most prestigious performance groups in Ghana, including the Ghana Dance Ensemble and Abibigromma, as well as the UO's Dance Africa ensemble will participate. Tickets are \$20 with students and seniors at \$15.

• The **Portland Bus Project** is coming to Eugene for a round table chat starting at 4:15 pm Saturday, April 23, at Sam Bond's Garage. Topic is public policy in support of economic innovation. Reps. Nancy Nathanson and Val Hoyle are expected to join the discussion, which will be followed by a visit to Arcimoto for the unveiling of its newest prototype. Word on the street is Nathan Fillion and Jon Huertes of ABC's *Castle* will be there. RSVP to noah@busproject.org

• The **Eugene Tree Foundation** is organizing an Amazon Creek work party from 10 am to 1 pm Saturday, April 23, at 16th and Friendly. Bring gloves and boots.

• The local **Sierra Club** will give a free screening of the film *Gasland* at 7 pm Thursday, April 28, at the Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High St. The film looks at hydraulic fracturing methods developed by Halliburton.

LANE AREA SPRAY SCHEDULE

• ODOT will begin highway spraying in District 5 (Lane County) April 18, depending on weather (see Notices/ODOT/2011). Call District 5 at 744-8080 or (888) 996-8080 for herbicide application information. ODOT spraying may have already started in other parts of Oregon.

• **Forestry spraying** that was delayed by rain may happen any time the weather clears — look at all notices posted this year or call ODF in Springfield at 726-3588 or in Veneta at 935-2283.

Compiled by Jan Wroncy, *Forestland Dwellers*: 342-8332, www.forestlanddwellers.org



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