

KEEP THEM OPEN

I oppose the proposed closure of the north and south bike/pedestrian entrances of the Fairgrounds, and the removal of that right-of-way. Indeed, these entrances are already closed unless there is an event in progress.

The bike and pedestrian paths through the Fairgrounds form a very important connection between the College Hill/Friendly Street and the Jefferson Westside/Whiteaker neighborhoods.

The proposed policy is being implemented without public outreach and without gathering the opinions of those affected by the closures. This is in direct conflict with Eugene's triple bottom line, and with the goals of the 20 Minute Neighborhood initiative, Envision Eugene and most other City initiatives that I know of.

This represents a decided step backward in preparing for our future. Inevitably, gas prices will increase and auto use will decline.

Closing the bike/ped entrances reduces the connectivity of the bicycle and pedestrian paths, and reduces the "eyes on the street" in the Fairgrounds area, which is the best way to reduce crime and vandalism. The more traffic in the area, the better!

Increasing police patrols in the area would be a better response to any criminal activity, as would increasing the nighttime lighting.

Several women I know have expressed safety concerns about the closure, since this would force them to travel areas they see as more dangerous.

We ask the City Council and the county commissioners to oppose the closure of the north and south entrances of the Fairgrounds, and the removal of that right-of-way.

There will be a Fairgrounds right-of-way Hearing at 1:30 pm Wednesday, Aug. 17, at the Lane County Courthouse, 125 E. 8th Ave. Please attend and make your opinion heard!

Duncan Rhodes
Whiteaker Neighborhood

GOOD COPS, BAD LAWS

A recent City Council summary reports 359 calls about illegal camping. That's almost 359 Eugeneans who've basically declared, "I am not my brother's keeper. Come, remove these homeless campers and exclude them from our community, and please hurry!"

During past discussions I've had with police officers about camping, much to their credit, some actually confided to me almost apologetically, wishing they were not being used to deal with homelessness in such a manner, that their time could have been used towards more important priorities.

This proved to me that the way in which the city uses the anti-camping ordinance to enforce compliance is a perfect example of good cops having to enforce bad law.

People, simply because you are freely invited to report such incidents, does not absolve you from the karma of additional suffering you place upon already hopeless and hurting individuals.

Stop complaining and using our police as proxies for your anger and frustration! Stop using our police and volunteers to do

such dirty work in denying the homeless what little they have! If you must call, please request that they check the welfare of those campers instead.

This way, your concerns will be investigated, but you won't be placing either side under such tense, adversarial situations, complaints will drop and you'll feel better about yourselves as first responders, as good Samaritans, instead of overzealous, contemptuous, malicious and selfish.

Danielle R. Smith
Eugene

TOO SKINNY

At first I thought, how clever to use BMI (body mass index) from driver's licenses but then it dawned on me that the Fat Map ("Bike Plan Wobbles Along," 7/21) is missing population density, which really makes the Fat Map invalid!

Linda Clark
Oakridge

EDITOR'S NOTE: The map documents average BMI per block and many areas in north and south Eugene have comparable population densities but apparently different body densities. The UO area has a high population density, but many of those scrawny young students do not have local driver's licenses, and are therefore not counted.

POLICE PRIORITIES

It's good to know the Eugene Police Department's priorities. Call them to investigate property theft and they are unlikely to investigate, but get them involved in a \$39 billing dispute and they scramble.

This week my wife had a mundane \$39 billing dispute with a local massage business. She had called them to say that she had paid for two months but had not used those massages, and asked if she could make them up. She was told she could, so she scheduled an appointment for July 12. She was not asked for payment when she arrived or when she left. After she got home the business called her to say she owed them \$39, which she disputed. They said they'd send it to collection and my wife told them to proceed.

So imagine our surprise when we got a call from officer McGann of the EPB on July 13, calling us from the massage business, after they called EPD to charge my wife for theft of service.

After much discussion with officer McGann my wife agreed to pay the \$39 rather than waste everyone's time to dispute the charge. As a business owner myself, I'm really happy to know that I can involve the EPD in a billing dispute by charging my client with theft of service, and that EPD will scramble an officer to my business and will call the client to threaten a criminal charge.

Other Eugene business owners: Be sure to use this incredible service EPD offers!

Norman Levinrad
Eugene

TORSO TRAUMA

Sigh. Thanks to the Pets issue (7/28), we'll have another rash of complaints about a picture of a bitch exposing her breasts on your cover.

Glenn Leonard
Eugene

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WHEN

August 8, 2011
7:00 - 9:00pm

WHERE

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