

ACTIVIST ALERT

• The **Nightingale Public Advocacy Collective** is a new nonprofit “dedicated to advocating for the civil rights and well-being of those who experience harassment, discrimination and criminalization due to homelessness and poverty,” says Alley Valkyrie of the group. “We believe that everyone has a right to exist in public space regardless of socioeconomic status, and that the basic rights of individuals in public space outweigh the economic interests of business and government.” See respectexistence.org or email nightingalecollective@gmail.com for more information.

• **Sen. Jeff Merkley** will speak at Springfield City Club at noon Thursday, May 2, at the Willamalane Center, 250 S. 32nd St., Spfd. His topic will be “Reversing the Decline of the Middle Class: Saving the American Dream.” Free for members, \$10 for admission, lunch is extra. See springfieldcityclub.org.

• The Eugene **city services fee** on the May ballot will be the topic at the City Club of Eugene at 11:45 am Friday, May 3, at the Hilton Ballroom on the 12th floor. Speaking in favor will be Steve Johnson and Councilor Alan Zelenka. Speaking in opposition will be Councilor George Brown and former councilor Bonny Bettman McCornack. A candidates forum will be May 10. Free for members, \$5 for visitors. Lunch or beverages extra.

• A BBQ fundraiser for **Pink Prom** (for LGBTQ and friends high school students) and UO TeachOUT conference will be from 3:30 to 6:30 pm Monday, May 6, at the South Eugene High School parking lot. Food by Pork-N-Stein, music by DJ FastLayne. \$5 per person or \$20 per family of four or more.

• **Friends of Trees** is having an event from 5 to 7 pm Monday, May 6, at Cozmic, to honor volunteers and also to release a Canopy Cover Study done of trees in Eugene, Eugene neighborhoods and Springfield. See wkly.ws/1go or find Friends of Trees on Facebook.

• **Sheldon High School's** Green Club students are raising money for new bike racks for their school using the Citizeninvestor website at wkly.ws/1gl. The project calls for 70 new racks, each with a two-bike capacity, in a covered area in front of the school. A video produced by the students is on the website.

LANE COUNTY AREA SPRAY SCHEDULE

• The Coos Bay rail line which follows the **Siuslaw River and Lake Creek** was sprayed with unknown chemicals recently. You may try to contact the owner through the Port of Coos Bay for more information, our efforts have not been successful.

• ODOT has begun spring spraying. Call Tony Kilmer at ODOT District 5 (Lane County area) at 744-8080 or call (888) 996-8080 for herbicide application information.

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

POLLUTION UPDATE

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) sent Eugene-based **Bennett's Drain Savers** a pre-enforcement notice on March 29 for performing sewage disposal services without a current license 697 times between Nov. 16, 2009, and March 6, 2013. DEQ sent **Goshen Forest Products** a warning letter on April 15 for failing to submit a 2011-2012 industrial stormwater monitoring report. DEQ's letter points out that DEQ is only warning Goshen Forest Products at this time, and that the matter may be referred to DEQ's Office of Compliance and Enforcement if the violation is repeated. DEQ's letter fails to note that Goshen Forest Products committed the same type of violation eight years in a row between 1998 and 2006. These violations were the subject of an enforcement action by **Willamette Riverkeeper**, and resulted in a \$5,000 payment by Goshen Forest Products to the **Coast Fork Watershed Council** for use in water quality projects.

— Doug Quirke/Oregon Clean Water Action Project

NEWS

HOMELESS HOPE FOR GOOD CAMPING

The Eugene City Council voted 7-0 April 24 to draft an ordinance to lift the city's ban on camping in undeveloped city properties for 120 days. Local homeless people and their advocates say that the experiment could go well if measures such as sanitation and safety are taken into consideration.

'It's important for City Council to keep in mind that if you can't sleep, you're not healthy, and if you're not healthy, it's hard to sleep.'

- MARRIE-LAE, HOMELESS EUGENEAN

“Marrie-Lae,” a homeless Eugenean using an alias to prevent others from assuming her identity, says that while she likes the idea, more temporary solutions mean there's still going to be a problem. She says she doesn't know if a temporary solution will enable people to take care of themselves. It's important for City Council to keep in mind that if you can't sleep, you're not healthy, and if you're not healthy, it's hard to sleep, she says.

In addition, Marrie-Lae says that it would make her feel safer, in case of an altercation, if legal sleeping locations weren't too far away from the downtown area, and a good solution would also mean being close enough to access food from places like FOOD for Lane County's Dining Room.

Advocate Alley Valkyrie says that the experiment can only be successful if camping locations have bathrooms

and bathrooms downtown are no longer locked on the weekends. “The city will say that they're open 24 hours, but we do random spot checks, and we go over there and it's locked,” she says. “They use the justification that someone's going to abuse the bathrooms to close the bathrooms. I don't care how many people abuse the bathroom, having to use the bathroom is a human right, and they're still going to have to go! If you lock it, they're going to go outside.”

Meanwhile, a homeless woman was jailed Sunday morning, April 28, for sleeping in the doorway of the Salvation Army. — Shannon Finnell

COUNTY LAND SOLD, COAST FOLKS IRKED

West Lane County residents often feel a little short-changed by the Lane County Commission. They pay taxes to the county but say that they get less public safety and other benefits. A recent county vote to sell land near Ada Park, which is on the shore of Siltcoos Lake near the Oregon Coast, to a logging company has some West Lane residents even more upset over county politics.

Commissioner Pete Sorenson voted against selling the land at the April 29 commission meeting, but the conservative board majority, minus Sid Leiken, voted to sell it. Sorenson tells *EW* that at the commission meeting, Public Works staff said that the land had been owned by the county for many years, probably since 1967, and was being held as possible addition to the Lane County Parks System. Sorenson says that when he asked if selling the land would reverse that policy, the Public Works staff said it would.

Lea Patten emailed Commission Chair Sid Leiken on April 26 over the sale of the land to Basco Logging, asking, “What gives? The county pleads ‘poverty’ yet plans to sell timbered land for \$700?” Patten, who lives near Florence, offered, “I'll buy the land for more than that! Will the county take \$800? Or \$1,000? Please let me know and I'll drive to Eugene and pay in cash!”

Leiken responded that he would forward Patten's email to Faye Stewart, writing, “I will be recusing myself from this item and cannot comment on this due to Basco Logging being a longtime business partner of mine.”

