



What's happening with the **LUCiA development** on Friendly Street? Construction on the second row of townhouses is expected to wrap up by June 1 and one of the units has already been sold, says Mel Bankoff, who is in partnership with architect Jan Fillingner of studio-e architecture and project manager Teri Reifer (see our 2013 story at [wkly.ws/1q3](#)). Bankoff says he plans to have open houses in mid-April. The third phase of residential development will begin in June with a completion target of March 2015. "We are actively looking for an anchor tenant for the commercial half of this mixed-use development," Bankoff says. The commercial buildings could include a healthy foods restaurant, brew pub, small shops and offices that "will add needed vitality to the Friendly Street neighborhood," he says. Once an anchor tenant is found, the commercial development could begin in late summer or early fall of this year. See [studio-e-architecture.com](#) or call 359-5513.

Saturday Market kicked off its 2014 season last weekend with big, enthusiastic crowds, despite the occasional drizzle. The market runs from 10 am to 5 pm every Saturday on the Park Blocks at 8th and Oak. In the Food Court this year, Toby's Tofu Palace is taking a season off and Betty Rocker's Street Kitchen will be taking its place. It has been several years since there has been a Food Court change. Betty Rocker's offers "old-fashioned comfort food with a modern twist, using local, organic and natural food sources for their ingredients as much as possible."

Lane County Farmers Market downtown has been going since February, but now gets a boost from the Saturday Market foot traffic across the street. More than 50 vendors are participating this year. Friends of the Farmers Market will be there this season, signing up and coordinating volunteers to help expand the market and protect local agriculture. Farmers Market runs from 9 am to 3 pm Saturdays. The Tuesday Farmers Market begins in May at the same location; the Thursday Farmers Market begins in June at 5th Street Public Market.

Greater Goods at 515 High St. is open for only limited days in April and is planning a community celebration from 4 to 6 pm Friday, April 11, and from noon to 6 pm Saturday, April 12. Live music, raffles, prizes and bargains on remaining inventory and fixtures. Find the event on Facebook.

We see **Kombucha Mama** is planning to change its name, but according to the company's April newsletter, the new name and label will not be revealed for a couple more weeks. The Bend-based company was founded in 2009 and is now distributing in Eugene and beyond. "For us, it's all about the vibe and energy," reads the newsletter. "We want our look and feel to clearly represent who we are and what our product means to us." See [kombuchamama.com](#).

Leaders in Oregon's **beer and wine industry** will be meeting at the UO Law School's annual "Law of Beer and Wine" event from 6 to 9 pm Thursday, April 10, at the Law School, 1515 Agate St. Speakers will be from Stoel Rives, LLP, Sylvan Ridge Winery, Oregon Wine Lab, Ninkasi Brewing and Oakshire Brewing. Cost is \$20 and includes dinner and samples of beer and wine. Register at [law.uoregon.edu](#).

The nonprofit **McKenzie River Trust** held its second "McKenzie Memories" program at Cozmic April 4 and raised more than \$13,500 from ticket sales, donations, book sales and a live auction. A drift boat trip with Dave Helfrich went for \$900. The evening included live music, stories from the Helfrich family's 100 years on the river and recorded interviews by UO Environmental Leadership students. MRT has an April fundraising challenge of \$30,000, "so we still have a ways to go," says Liz Lawrence, MRT director of resources. "Critical operating dollars are hard to find, but this community is incredible for coming out to support the causes that they care about. And now we have a way for people to become members." See [mckenzie-river.org](#) for information on upcoming bird and plant tours, including the annual Green Island Celebration June 28.

The nonprofit **Arts & Business Alliance of Eugene** will hold its annual Arts After Hours celebration at 5 pm Thursday, April 17, at Kendall Toyota, 373 Goodpasture Island Road. The event format is an informal trade show featuring local arts and cultural organizations. Admission is \$8 for Chamber of Commerce members, \$10 for non-members. Call 242-2364 for more information.

NEWS

LANE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS WILL ASK FOR BOND MONEY

Local schools continue to struggle with insufficient funding, and two Lane County school districts, Fern Ridge and Pleasant Hill, filed bond measures that will appear on the May Primary ballot to help pay for improvements to property and facilities that school officials say are greatly needed — one school is basically providing federally assisted school lunches out of a gym concession stand.

Voters last approved a bond for the Fern Ridge School District in 1997, and that bond will expire this year, according to Olivia Meyers Buch, business manager for the district. She says if the new bond is approved, taxpayers will continue to pay the same amount they've been paying on their existing bonds.

The total bond is \$26.6 million, and Meyers Buch says \$12.6 million of that would go toward replacing Elmira Elementary School, built in 1949 and the oldest building in the district. Another use of the bond money includes improving the safety of the office in Veneta Elementary School, which would allow office workers to more carefully monitor who walks into the school and classrooms. Meyers Buch says the bond would also address Title IX

concerns by making improvements to the Elmira High School girls' locker rooms, which are currently smaller and less updated than the boys' locker rooms.

"We're focusing on projects strategically designed to invest in our facilities," Meyers Buch says. "It's more important to make a smart investment than put a lot of Band-Aids on things that will not last."

At the Pleasant Hill School District, Superintendent

Tony Scurto says that the \$17.9 million bond would help relieve crowdedness in the elementary school and improve the 51-year-old Pleasant Hill High School (home of the Pleasant Hill Billies). In the elementary school, insufficient kitchen and cafeteria facilities interfere with federal lunch programs.

"We recently became

part of the National School Lunch Program, but operating a lunch program out of basically a high school gym concession area is challenging," Scurto says, adding that the bond would not increase the current average tax rate of \$2.25 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Although he cannot directly advocate for the bond as superintendent, Scurto says that he hopes the Pleasant Hill community is aware of the bond and gathers as much information as needed to make the right decision for the district.

Voter registration deadline is April 29 and ballots are mailed May 2. — Amy Schneider

'It's more important to make a smart investment than put a lot of Band-Aids on things that will not last.'

—OLIVIA MEYERS BUCH,
LANE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BUSINESS MANAGER

HAPPENING PEOPLE

BY PAUL NEEVEL

ERIC SCHIFF

After high school in Cleveland, Ohio, and a year at Case Western Reserve, Eric Schiff followed his older brother to Eugene and the UO. "We had done summer trips out here with the family," says Schiff, who learned metalsmithing from Max Nixon, made jewelry, played fiddle in a few bands, studied computer science and worked as a pre-school teacher at the UO Child Care Center, on his way to a bachelor's in sociology in 1977. He entered a master's resident teachers program, taught at Spring Creek Elementary and did course work in the summer to earn a master's and teacher certification. A pioneer in the field of technology education, he taught for five years at Westmoreland Elementary, and for 12 at Jefferson Middle School. He ran summer technology camps for kids and

workshops for educators in the 1980s and '90s, and he still teaches evening classes in the UO's Arts Administration program. He left Jefferson to run Premierlink Communications, a web hosting company, from the mid-'90s until the tech bubble burst, then returned to teaching at Cal Young Middle School in 2002. He helped design the technology infrastructure for the new school building that opened in 2006. "We have a project team that has developed a business model to create virtual walk-throughs for Realtors," he says. "The kids are hands-on, actively engaged and feel a sense of purpose and reward." Another of his passions, he says, is Harley-Davidson motorcycles. "Riding is a Zen experience for me. I've ridden motorcycles since high school."