



Might be too late to reserve a seat, but we see the **Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce** is holding a “Chamber 101” lunch at noon Thursday, March 5, in the Chamber’s conference room on Willamette Street. Pre-registration (free) is required and it appears the presentation is geared to new members. Everything is political in Eugene, and we wouldn’t be surprised if some of the participants raise political issues, such as why the U.S. Chamber has actively campaigned against reducing carbon pollution.

For all those **working in technology**: We recently ran across a local networking website called eugenetech.switchboardhq.com where members share ideas about jobs, office space, internships, partnerships, user group meetings and just getting together for beer and geek speak.

The **Oregon Country Fair** is looking for a new general manager. Charlie Ruff is stepping down, and the deadline to apply is 5 pm Friday, March 6. This position has been described as “one huge fucking job” requiring unique talents overseeing year-round operations. Find the job description on the OCF website.

Eugene Mindworks, Oregon’s largest coworking space, is about to grow even bigger. The shared commercial space for private offices at 5th and Pearl downtown has become a hub for local start-ups and digital creatives. It’s expanding its offices and features to meet rising demand. “Eugene is experiencing major growth in the local business community and we are excited to be a part of it,” says co-founder Aloma Murray. “Having just opened in July, we are already in our third phase of expansion. We will now have over 11,000 square feet that includes a community area, lunch room, three conference rooms and 27 private offices.” Tours of the space can be arranged by calling 515-9330 or visit eugenemindworks.com.

Julien Michels of Eugene has a new website talking about healing, personal development and group facilitation. Michels is a licensed massage therapist and has a master’s degree in psychology. See medicine-house.com.

Congrats to EPUD’s **Katherine Schacht** who will serve as the first committee vice-chair of the American Public Power Association’s Policy Makers Council in 2015. APPA is the Washington, D.C.-based national service organization representing the nation’s more than 2,000 public electric utilities serving 47 million consumers in 49 states. The Policy Makers Council assists APPA in promoting federal legislation that is important to public power systems and opposing harmful legislation, Schacht says. She currently serves as vice president of the EPUD Board and also serves as an officer of the Northwest Energy Coalition.

Paul’s Bicycle Way of Life is celebrating its 30th anniversary this week with a bunch of bike gear marked off 30 percent. The business started off as Paul’s Bicycle Shop at 2480 Alder St. on March 1, 1985, and is still in the original location. The store more recently expanded to an additional location at 556 Charnelton St.

Justin Freeman, Hummingbird Wholesale’s general manager, will be the speaker at the March luncheon of the GreenLane Sustainable Business Network from 11:30 am to 1 pm Wednesday, March 11, at the Eugene Hilton, 66 E. 6th Ave. GreenLane normally meets on the second Wednesday of the month and will resume that schedule in April.

NEWS

RUN, PETE, RUN (FOR COUNTY COMMISSION)

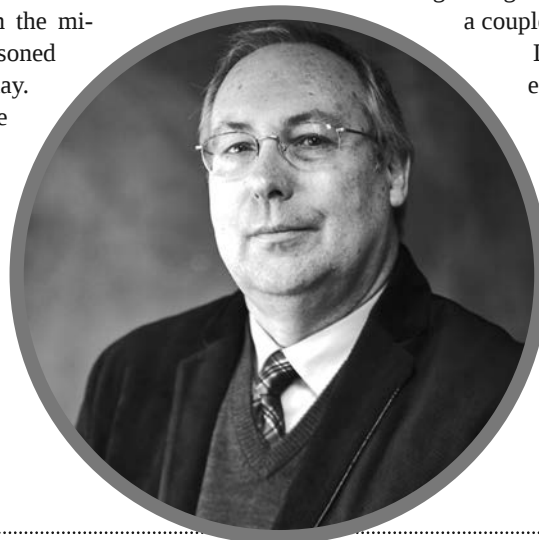
“I’ve gotten better and better in the role of watchdog,” says Commissioner Pete Sorenson of his decision to run again for his long-time South Eugene seat on Lane County’s Board of Commissioners in the May 2016 primary.

The election might be more than a year away, but Sorenson has already begun lining up endorsements, from local politicians — Mayor Kitty Piercy — to legislators in Salem — Rep. Phil Barnhart.

Despite not getting endorsements from state legislators in the May 2012 election, Sorenson beat opponent Andy Stahl 58 to 42 percent. Sorenson has held the commission seat since 1996.

In recent years, Sorenson as a liberal and progressive has found himself in the minority, but he says that as a “seasoned watchdog” he still has a role to play. “The issues don’t go away because of gerrymandering or campaign spending,” he says.

One issue that arose around the previous election was allegations that conservative Commissioner Jay Bozievich had pushed a redistricting plan that gerrymandered commission districts — altered the district boundaries to change their



makeup and thus affect who is elected to represent those areas.

As a watchdog, Sorenson points to his criticisms of the way the conservative majority hired the county’s former, controversial administrator Liane (Richardson) Inkster without a search, in comparison to the open process that resulted in the hire of current Administrator Steve Mokrohisky, calling Mokrohisky a “consummate professional.”

In contrast, Inkster was fired after an investigation into unauthorized changes she made to her take-home pay.

Sorenson says, “I like my job,” and that he and Peter DeFazio are the only people being paid a “living wage” to help constituents in south Eugene as a full-time job. In addition to his roles in county governance and leadership, Sorenson says his constituent services have included working to increase pedestrian safety at crosswalks, dealing with garbage on 30th Avenue and helping a couple with their overseas adoption.

Looking ahead to the May 2015 election, Sorenson says if it passes, the proposed county vehicle tax would pay for road maintenance, not new construction, thanks to his watchdog role.

Sorenson will participate in two panels at the March 5-8 Public Interest Environmental Law Conference, on legal ethics and on working with elected officials. More info at PIELC.org. — Camilla Mortensen

POLLUTION UPDATE

Pacific Recycling has been fined yet again for environmental violations, this time involving asbestos. (For a listing of past appearances in this space go to goo.gl/fNr376.) The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) assessed a civil penalty of \$32,000 against Eugene-based Pacific Recycling on February 3 for asbestos violations associated with an abatement project at a facility in Independence, Oregon, owned by CPM Development Corporation. DEQ assessed a separate penalty of \$10,400 against CPM. In assessing the penalties, DEQ indicated that workers, neighbors and the public may have been exposed to asbestos and that there is no known safe level of exposure to asbestos. Comments on the proposed water quality certification for the **Jordan Cove Energy Project** are due to DEQ by 5 pm on Friday, March 13. The application is not available on DEQ’s website and requires a visit to a DEQ office for viewing. Visit goo.gl/ud92cn for more info. A panel at PIELC on Jordan Cove and Pacific Connector Pipeline water quality impacts will take place Friday morning at 8:45 am in EMU’s Maple Room.

Doug Quirke/Oregon Clean Water Action Project

LANE COUNTY AREA SPRAY SCHEDULE

• Weyerhaeuser, 744-4600, plans to ground and aerial spray 6 acres located 1 mile **southeast of Cottage Grove near Taylor Butte** with Accord Concentrate, Atrazine 4L, Weedone LV6 EC, Velpar DF, Oust XP, Oust Extra, DMA4 IVM, Transline and/or Sulfomet XP. See ODF notification 2015-771-03472, call Tim Meehan at 726-3588 with questions.

• ODOT is currently **spraying roadsides**. Call Tony Kilmer at ODOT District 5 at 744-8080 or call (888) 996-8080 for herbicide application information. I-5 near the intersection with Hwy. 22 in Salem, and Hwy. 101 about 9 miles north of Florence were sprayed recently.

Compiled by Jan Wroncy and Gary Hale, ForestlandDwellers.org, 342-8332.



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