

ACTIVIST LERT

- The **Eugene Police Commission** will meet at 5:30 pm Thursday, March 12, at EPD Headquarters, 300 Country Club Road. On the agenda is “citizens filming officers policy review.” The EPD does not currently have a policy regarding citizens recording officer interactions, such as how far away citizens must stand to avoid being arrested for interference. Email Jeremy.D.Cleversey@ci.eugene.or.us or call 682-5852 for more information.
- An all-day symposium on “**Public Engagement in Latin@ and Latin American Studies**” will begin at 9 am Thursday, March 12, at the Knight Library Browsing Room on campus. Free. Sponsored by the UO Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies [CLLAS]. Find the schedule, list of speakers and registration information at wkly.ws/1yt.
- A rally in support of SB 629, also known as the **Right to Rest bill**, will begin at 2 pm Thursday, March 12, on the steps of the Oregon State Capitol in Salem. Contact Monica at (503) 860-9880.
- The Eugene **Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee** will meet at 5:30 pm Thursday, March 12, at the Atrium Building, 99 West 10th Ave. On the agenda are the Eugene Trails Plan, the Eugene Climate Recovery ordinance and bike parking code changes. Call 682-5471 or email lee.shoemaker@ci.eugene.or.us.
- Oregon **Sen. Jeff Merkley** will be holding three town halls in our area on Saturday, March 14. The first will be at 10 am at the Corvallis Public Library, 645 NW Monroe Ave. Next will be at 1 pm at the Halsey City Hall in Halsey. The last will be at 4 pm at Harris Hall, 125 E. 8th Ave. in Eugene.
- A “**Forest Pesticide Reform Advocacy Day**” is being planned for 9 am to 4 pm Thursday, March 12, at Room 350 of the Oregon State Capitol, Salem. Contact Lisa Arkin at Beyond Toxics, 465-8860.
- A benefit for **Community Alliance of Lane County (CALC)** will be from 5:30 to 8:30 pm Monday, March 16, at Ninkasi Brewing, with the birthday of longtime program director Michael Carrigan also being celebrated. Free. Call 485-1755 for more information.
- **Oregon Wild** has a special program on “Tim Palmer’s Field Guide to Oregon’s Rivers” from 6:30 to 8:30 pm Tuesday, March 17, at Claim 52 Brewing, 1030 Tjinn Street. Palmer is an author and photographer who will show slides based on his new book, *Field Guide to Oregon Rivers*, published by OSU Press. See oregonwild.org or call 344-0675 for more information.
- **Oregonians for Industrial Hemp** will meet from 5:30 to 7:30 pm Thursday, March 19, at Growers Market, 454 Willamette St. Call Kathy Ging at 342-8461.



We hear changes are afoot at **BRING Recycling** as Executive Director Julie Daniel and Director of Communications and Development Sonja Snyder are both planning to retire in May. Ephraim Payne recently took over as director of outreach and communications when Shirley Perez West left. Daniel has been with BRING for 19 years and is credited with spearheading the \$3.2 million capital campaign that created the new Planet Improvement Center in Glenwood. She also launched the RE:think Business program and the annual Home and Garden Tour. “After many years of ‘doing,’ I want to spend a lot more time ‘being,’” Daniel says in the latest *UsedNews* newsletter. “I can’t wait to see where BRING goes next.”

The 36th annual **Lane County Home & Garden Show** will begin Thursday, March 12, and continue through the weekend at the Lane County Fairgrounds, featuring some 300 local and regional vendor exhibits and information booths. Show manager Karen Ramus promises spectacular flower displays this year and nationally known speakers will include Melinda Meyers, John Fischer and The Dahlia Queen. Find the event online at eugenehomeshow.com or call at 484-9247.

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— PAULA LESLIE,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BIKEPAC

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MOTORCYCLE LOBBY HOPES FOR NEW LAWS TO FREE UP ROADS

Motorcyclists may see some new laws on the books after this legislative session, including ones that would let them filter through traffic jams and pass through some red lights. BikePAC of Oregon — the main motorcycle lobby group in the state — has been working hard to persuade legislators to take up a few motorcyclist issues.

Sen. Chris Edwards (D-Eugene) and Rep. Gene Whisnant (R-Sunriver) have sponsored the “dead red” bill (SB 533 and HB 2373). The proposed law would allow motorcyclists and bicyclists to pass cautiously through red lights that don’t get triggered by their weight. At stoplights that use motion detectors in order to turn green, bikes and motorcycles would be required to wait for a full cycle of lights before they could proceed through a red light.

There are 16 other states that have similar provisions. The Senate Committee on Business and Transportation heard testimony from a rider who said people in cars get aggressive when she waits at red lights. She said she tries to signal to them that they can come up next to her to make the light turn, but that this law would solve the whole problem in a much simpler way.

The bill came out of the Senate Committee on Business and Transportation with full support on March 4 and is now waiting on its final reading on the Senate floor.

Paula Leslie, the executive director of BikePAC Oregon, says the dead red bill is one of a few she thinks has a good chance of passing this legislative session.

Another issue BikePAC hopes will get addressed is “lane sharing” or “filtering” — letting motorcyclists filter through backed-up vehicles in traffic.

Three bills have been proposed addressing motorcycles and lane sharing. One suggests that motorcycles use the shoulder to pass cars, and the other two would allow motorcycles to pass cars in the same lane.

“The aim is to get motorcycles out of traffic jams,” Leslie says, “not to get them to the front of the line in town.”

Advocates of lane sharing say it is win-win for everyone on the road. By letting motorcycles through, the traffic jams decrease in size. Since motorcycles don’t have air conditioning and rely on wind to cool their engines, they argue being able to move out of a hot pack of jammed cars would make everyone safer. They say passing in the same lane is best, because the shoulders of roads are not a place people consistently watch for traffic.

BikePAC hopes that SB 694 will pass; it addresses lane sharing and is sponsored by Sen. Jeff Kruse (R-Roseburg). Leslie hopes to persuade legislators to add amendments clarifying when and where lane sharing would be allowed, and at what speeds.

Lane sharing became a controversial topic in California in the past few years, when legislation was proposed to make it officially legal. Currently it is neither illegal nor legal in that state.

The motorcycle lobbyists are also advocating for passage of SB 424, which would require all gas stations to have at least one pump with ethanol-free fuel. That bill passed out of the House and is waiting to be referred to a committee in the Senate.

Finally, BikePAC members say another issue they would like to work on with Sen. Edwards is the anti-profiling bill, SB 486, which would prohibit law enforcement officers from profiling individuals based on a list of characteristics and circumstances. BikePAC wants to add “mode of transportation” to that list.

BikePAC has also initiated HB 2989, which would allow motorcyclists over 18 years of age to ride without a helmet on. That bill has several legislators signed on to it, but Leslie says she’s doubtful it will pass, because the Governor’s Advisory Committee on Motorcycle Safety has said it will not support it. — *Lucy Ohlsen*