



*Pileated  
Woodpecker*

# SOUTHEAST NEIGHBORS NEWS

Eugene, Oregon

*Spring-Summer 2005*



## **Elect Board Members at General Meeting Tuesday, June 14, 2005, 7PM to 9PM At Hilyard Community Center**

### THOUGHTS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

#### **Help Save Our Pileated Woodpeckers**

By Kevin Matthews

Please come to our General Meeting at 7PM on June 14, 2005, at the Hilyard Community Center, 2580 Hilyard Street, and vote for Southeast Neighbors president and vice president and four board members. We'll have special guest presentations on our magnificent pileated woodpeckers, and on urban-edge fire safety.

There's green magic among the big trees of our ridgeline forest. Early each spring, the lilting laugh of the pileated woodpecker sounds across the larger fir groves of our neighborhood, as about a dozen pairs of pileated woodpeckers, mated for life, speak up with cries, territorial dances, and ritual drumming, renewing their bonds and re-establishing their 100 acre nesting territories.

These special birds, the biggest woodpeckers in the west, 16" tall, black with white head stripes and a jaunty red cap, are not only beautiful and inspiring emblems of our remaining few-thousand acres of intact forest ecosystems.

Master carpenter of the northwest forest, the pileated woodpecker is a natural "ecosystem engineer", with a unique and essential role in supporting dozens of other woodland species.

As they nest, roost, and forage, these great woodpeckers carve out a variety of tree cavities and openings in sturdy snags and trees that support some 50 other woodland species, from the wood duck and bufflehead to owls, bats, and flying squirrels (favored food of the spotted owl).

In bio-speak, the pileated woodpecker is a "keystone habitat modifier". In addition to supporting the dozens of other creatures that depend on its woodworking, these woodpeckers help eat large quantities of carpenter ants, their main diet, as well as other insects. They make a variety of wood-boring insects accessible to smaller woodpeckers and other consumers.

Through these direct and indirect impacts, the pileated woodpecker probably plays an important role both in mediating insect populations, and in overall nutrient cycling in the forest ecosystem.

The pileated woodpecker is our outstanding bird carpenter, with such a crucial role, because of its size and power. And for the same reason, pileated need large trees for nesting and roosting cavities, and extensive home forest patches of 100 acres or more - about 1/2 mile. Individual trees smaller than about 30" in diameter, and forest areas smaller than about 1/2 mile in diameter, are too small to support pileated woodpeckers.

Outside the Eugene urban growth boundary (UGB), an enormous portion of Oregon's forest are managed for timber production. Plantation forestry and clear cutting wipes out large and dead trees. In those managed forests, most of the trees are too small, and the diversity of young, old, and dead trees is inadequate for pileated woodpeckers.

As a result, the forested hills inside our UGB provide an especially important refuge for woodpeckers and all their associated species. Currently, at least in theory, the local South Hills Study and the state Goal 5 natural resources planning process establish the primary policies for protecting our woods and woodpeckers.

In practice, there are real problems. The natural resource preservation policies in the South Hills Study (SHS), laid down by community consensus in the 1970s, are not always precise enough to withstand the 21st century loopholing talents of today's developer attorneys. And even so, as shown by increasing bald patches along the ridgeline, the SHS conservation policies seem to be upheld these days only with neighborhood vigilance.

In general, City tree regulations simply ignore the dead trees that are essential for woodpeckers, and for a complete ecosystem. And in the dwindling forest areas *inside* our UGB, felling of the biggest trees to sell as logs for short-term profit still continues every year.

Even though the pileated woodpecker is listed by the State of Oregon as a species of concern, the City's latest natural resource policy proposal, unveiled mid-May, essentially pretends these birds don't exist. Outside of a few narrow stream corridors, the city proposal for Goal 5 natural resource planning recommends no preservation measures whatsoever, across all the hills - even including lands already public!

Stronger, clearer regulations for the sustainability of our local natural resources are essential to keep our woods and woodpeckers alive.

I've just gotten back from Curitiba, Brazil, an impressively green city with 1.5 million residents, with a truly integrated approach to economic, environmental, and social planning. As part of my work-related research, I toured a new apartment tower, in the finishing stages of construction. Despite the small lots high-density urban fabric, rooms on the fifth floor looked out through the green boughs of mature pines.

My hosts explained those trees had been carefully preserved because of strict tree regulation, such that cutting of just a single tree requires a permit, which is only granted for cause. That might not be the right approach for Eugene. But neither is an approach

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## **Milton Park Opening on June 15th**

### *Southeast Neighbors Invited to Rededicate our Neighborhood Park*

By Philip Richardson, Eugene Park Planner

Join City Councilor Betty Taylor, parks staff, and park neighbors for a summer picnic in the park to celebrate the grand opening of Milton Park, Wednesday, June 15, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Food, prizes and entertainment will be available for the whole family. Milton Park is located near 3300 University Street.

Thanks to the 1998 parks and open space bond measure, the 0.6-acre park received an extensive renovation. Originally developed in the 1960s, it now has all new play equipment, benches, picnic tables, a drinking fountain, a new half-court basketball court, and sidewalks. In addition, the lawn and landscaped beds were rejuvenated, and a new irrigation system was installed to maintain them. Several unique tiles by local artist Betsy Wolfston have also been installed in the sidewalk. During construction, local construction contractor, Triton Group, worked closely with Sperry Arborists to help preserve the park's many mature trees.

Hazel Hering and Hannah Eshelman, both eight years old, concur that the play structure with its rock climbing wall and winding pole is a highlight of the new park. Hazel's mother, Jennifer Jarman, is also impressed with the park. "We always loved the park... We participated in a few of the many planning meetings, and it truly was a community effort to pull this together," says Jarman. "We are pleased that they were able to keep a lot of trees and open space and are very excited about the new features as well."

For additional information contact: Philip Richardson, park planner at: 682-4906 Net: philip.s.richardson@ci.eugene.or.us ♦

## **SEN ELECTIONS AT JUNE MEETING**

Six positions will be filled at our June General Meeting: President, Vice-President, and four 2-year board positions. Kevin and David are both running for re-election. A slate of interested Board candidates will be presented at the meeting, and additional nominations may be made from the floor.

We will also have presentations on urban-edge fire safety and on the Pileated Woodpecker. ♦

## **CITY COUNCIL OVERVIEW**

By City Councilor Betty Taylor (Ward 2)

The City Council and the Budget Committee are working on next year's budget--scheduled for adoption on June 13. I hope that the budget will include more money for neighborhood newsletters. The Council is committed to increasing citizen involvement--with a focus on neighborhoods, and Chief Lehner is interested in using neighborhood organizations in the implementation of community policing. Effective communication is essential to increasing participation--thus the need for more newsletters.

Some of the topics the Council will consider in the near future are replacement or renovation of City Hall (I am currently the only one in favor of renovation), new regulations for outdoor smoking areas, the police department review process, external citizen review of complaints against police, racial issues in Eugene, and a homeless strategy.

One of the most important issues for southeast Eugene, and for the future health of the community, is the possible acquisition of the Nectar/Dillard property. This will be the topic of a work session at noon on June 8 in the McNutt Room at City Hall. An encouraging development is an alliance between the Nectar/Dillard group and the Santa Clara residents opposing development of farmland outside the Urban Growth Boundary--a Forest/Farm alliance.

In the meantime, we should not forget the Amazon Headwaters land at the end of West Amazon, which is being desecrated by incremental logging.

To conclude on another unhappy note--the streets are bad and getting worse. Hilyard is beyond repair, according to Public Works director, Kurt Corey.

Please share your thoughts about problems and possible solutions by speaking at public forums ( 2nd and 4th Mondays at 7:30 in City Hall council chambers) or by email or telephone.

Email: betty.l.taylor@ci.eugene.or.us

Phone: 338-9947

## **SEN ART CONTEST**

By Beth Aydelott

Use your artistic talent for Southeast Neighbors pride! The SEN Board of Directors announces a contest open to any creative person living, working, or attending school within our boundaries. We are looking for a design to identify our neighborhood association for the outside world. The winning entry will be printed on T-shirts and bumper stickers to be sold at a nominal price at the annual fall picnic.

All submissions should be designed around the slogan "I live in SEN (SouthEast Neighbors)." Send designs in pdf format to dwmonk@comcast.net by July 1<sup>st</sup>. We encourage anyone, regardless of artistic experience, to enter the contest. ♦

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that would mindlessly let cookie-cutter development erase the very essence of our natural heritage, lot by lot by lot.

In Curitiba, Brazil, the city leaders know they don't have a lot of funding to waste. Intact ecosystems make good economic sense, and Curitiba is protecting them upfront, to preserve water quality, environmental balance, and quality of life, because it is the most cost-effective public policy.

Even insect control benefits from intact ecosystems. And as a homeowner, I must admit to a special fondness for any creature that, like our pileated woodpeckers, makes its primary diet of carpenter ants.

U.S. Forest Service scientists in the northwest have recommended special attention and monitoring for the pileated woodpecker, because of its importance, as a keystone species, to the overall health of northwest forests.

I propose that we give special attention to the pileated woodpeckers we're blessed with right here in Eugene. Saving these beautiful birds for our children and theirs means saving our few remaining intact upland forests from development. It's the right thing to do.

Please help. Get involved as you can. Please come to our Southeast Neighbors annual elections meeting in June, and vote. Support local organizations like the Lane County Audubon Society, the Eugene Tree Foundation, and Friends of Eugene. If you're a member of any of these organizations, ask them to get involved in city policy discussion, to speak up for nature in our local planning and political processes.

And when you have a chance to look up and gaze at the beauty of our green hills in Eugene, don't take them for granted. These trees and streams and birds and ferns and wildflowers are precious.

Treasure the magic.

*An extended version of this article with references is available online at:*  
<http://www.SoutheastNeighbors.org>

**FILM**

**THE END OF SUBURBIA**

By Deborah Noble

On Thursday, May 27, Friends of Eugene sponsored a showing of the film, *The End of Suburbia*, at the Hilyard Center at 7:00 PM.

The film was co-sponsored by Southeast Neighbors, Permatopia and Landwatch Lane Country.

A synopsis is available at:

<http://www.endofsuburbia.com>

**Policy Statement**

This is the official newsletter of Southeast Neighbors. Newsletters are published and mailed courtesy of the City of Eugene. Newsletters are produced by neighborhood volunteers and are free to residents and businesses of the neighborhood. Space is available for letters to the editor with editorial comment from neighbors. All signed letters will be published as space permits. Editorials express the authors views, not the position of the neighborhood association, the City's elected officials, or City staff.

**Annual Southeast Neighbors Fall Picnic in September!**

By Beth Aydelott

Mark your calendars now for the Second Annual Southeast Neighbors Fall Picnic! **We will gather at Tugman Park on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, from 4:00pm until 7:00pm to meet new neighbors and greet old ones.** It is especially appropriate on this anniversary of our nation's tragedy to come together and celebrate our community spirit.

So bring your entire family, a favorite dish, and even a frisbee if you want. The Neighborhood Association will provide drinks, plates, cups, napkins, and eating utensils. We'll also have tables and several chairs, but you will probably want to bring lawn chairs or blankets. Don't worry if it rains – we'll erect shelter to protect us and the food from getting wet.

And how will we celebrate living in the Southeast Neighbors area?

- Food – It's commonly known that our neighborhood has some of the best cooks in the valley. Bring your contribution to the table, and taste cuisine from all over the world, right here in Eugene;
- Games – Volleyball will be back by popular demand, along with races for all age groups (three-legged, gunny sack, wheel-barrow, and whatever else we can imagine);
- Contests
  - A Cookie Contest! Now we'll finally discover who bakes the best cookies in the neighborhood. Bring your best cookies if you want to compete;
  - An Art Contest! We will announce the Art Contest winner (see article, page 2). Find out whose artwork will be paraded around town;
- T-shirts and bumper stickers – Show your pride in your neighborhood by purchasing and displaying the first ever SEN merchandise designed by our very own Art Contest winner;
- Information Sharing – We'll have tables for displays of neighborhood interest groups. Are you in a book club or a group concerned about some neighborhood issue? Bring flyers and a sign-up sheet;
- Business Information – We'll have a place to post flyers or business cards. Find out who does what in our area.

If you would like to help organize this event, please contact Beth Aydelott at 683-4642 or email: [elizabeth@nwcc.edu](mailto:elizabeth@nwcc.edu). There will also be sign-up sheets at the General Meeting in June for picnic committees. ♦

For comment or Letters to the Editor, contact Bob Rosen, 338-0247, E-mail: [afterswift@aol.com](mailto:afterswift@aol.com)

**EDITORIAL**

**EAST FORK AMAZON HEADWATERS FOREST ENDANGERED BY DEVELOPMENT**

(Formerly known as Nectar/ Dillard Forest)

By Lisa Warnes: Representative for East Fork Amazon Headwater Preservation

In the southeast hills of Eugene lies a 39.9 acre native forest bounded to the east by Dillard Road, to the west by Nectar Way, and to the south by City-owned open space. Elevation spans from 530 to 810 feet with steep slopes and two main stream channels that come together in a flood plain and a multitude of small seasonal creeks that all flow into roughly three acres of wetlands. The trees are a mix of old growth fir, maple, oak and ash and have never been logged.

Biologist Ethen Perkins put together a natural features assessment in December 2004 and cited a high probability for at least two rare upland plants: Aster vialis and Cimifuga. He noted suit-

able habitat for the red-legged frog. Pileated woodpeckers are seen from time to time, and one of the neighbors has spotted a nest. The water that flows from this forest is part of the East Fork Amazon Headwaters, which flows into Amazon Creek and is contiguous with Fern Ridge, Long Tom River and eventually the Willamette River.

This site has been rated the highest value for natural features and the most pristine forest in the city of Eugene. This property would make a logical and much needed connection to the Ridgeline Trail system. Last year the City of Eugene made a feeble attempt to purchase the property but lost it to Portland Developer Joe Green. Green is thinking in terms of 120 homes. He has not yet submitted an application for a PUD; however, his attorney has contacted me to get together for some form of negotiations. This pristine forest is an irreplaceable asset to our entire community and desperately needs help to save it from the imminent destruction that development will bring. ♦

*For more information, please contact Lisa Warnes: 5020 Nectar Way, Eugene, OR. Net: ljwarnes@yahoo.com*

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**AMAZON CREEK RESTORATION — TOM PRINGLE’S DEDICATION**

Tom Pringle, a 59-year-old geneticist, chair of the Native Plant Society, and Southeast neighbor has been busy removing blackberries along the Amazon Creek between 31st and 33rd street. Last year Tom also planted 52 species of native trees and shrubs — 495 plants total — at a personal cost of \$1,200.

For years Pringle, who's lived up the hill from Amazon Park since 1978, felt disturbed by the tangles of invasive plants choking the creek. "It was not restful, visually," he says. "I realized that I wouldn't be able to enjoy my walks unless something happened here. And something wasn't going to happen here unless I did it."

In Pringle's view, the City manages the creek primarily for flood control. "I know the plants will get blamed if it does flood," he says. "The whole flood culture is sort of a boogeyman. I think the City has been schizophrenic about it for a long time. It has nothing to do with property damage; it's about man controlling nature. It's a war against nature. You can look back and say, 'Mistakes were made,' but I prefer to look forward to see what can be done."

For Pringle, restoration is less about attaining a past ideal than about changing people's perspectives. The city's metal fences, he says, send the wrong message. "It's alienating. It's saying: 'The creek is dangerous. Don't play here.' It's very industrial." On the other hand, says Pringle, making the creek beautiful causes people to view it differently. —Reprinted with permission from the Eugene Weekly ♦



**Southeast Neighbors  
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