

"Where there's smoke..." This has been a wildfire smoke season like the Springfield-Eugene area has never seen before, or at least not in the last 40 or so years for which we have continuous air quality data. In the midst of this adversity it was good to see the cooperative response throughout our community. Normally our air quality is well down in the GREEN (or Good) range meaning an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 0-50 during July-September, with occasional readings in the YELLOW (or Moderate) range on hottest days due to some ozone pollution formation downwind. But during August-September 2017 we had several days of wildfire smoke with 24-hour average AQIs into the ORANGE (or Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups), RED (Unhealthy for the General Population), and even PURPLE (Very Unhealthy) ranges for Particulate Matter, making the term "Air Quality Index" sound like an oxymoron. On the worst days (September 3-5, 2017) we had 12-hour periods well into the MAROON (or Hazardous) range. These September smoke concentrations were at levels way beyond those seen here since the worst winter days in the 1980's (before any of the woodstove smoke control programs), or the worst summer days such as "Black Tuesday" in the 1960's (before field burning control programs). We were all appreciative of the tremendous efforts by firefighters on the many huge wildfires threatening our communities. But it was also gratifying to see the interagency cooperation to keep people informed of smoke health concerns and advised of protective actions. I immediately think of the Lane County Public Health Department, the U.S. Forest Service, the Oregon Health Authority and Department of Environmental Quality and Department of Forestry, the National Weather Service and NOAA, with extensive local news media coverage, but the list goes on and on. During the wildfire smoke impacts, weekly and sometimes daily interagency teleconferences were held with 50 or more connections to keep everyone advised of the status of wildfires, air quality conditions, weather forecasts, and expected smoke impacts, to coordinate air quality alerts and provide clear and accurate messaging to the public and news media. At the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA), we were overwhelmed by the interest in current air quality information and advice. Fortunately our website and social media enhancements in recent years were up to the challenge. Most people were able to get the information they needed, allowing staff to focus on air monitoring, AQI forecasting, updating social media, and be *(Continued on page 2)*

MEETING CALENDAR

OCTOBER 5 – GLENWOOD, THE DEVELOPER'S VIEW

Springfield has been aggressively trying to move Glenwood development forward. Now, concrete and asphalt are hitting the ground as the first stage of the Franklin Boulevard redesign is underway. The City remains convinced that Glenwood is a diamond in the rough waiting for explosive development. What does the development community say?

We've invited Steve Roth, Steve Wildish, Courtney Griesel and Dan Hurley to tell us what is real and what is dreaming.

Mr. Roth is a major property owner on the north side of the new Franklin Boulevard. Mr. Hurley is the manager of the Lane County transfer site, which occupies a large property just south of Franklin. Mr. Wildish and his family control a large section of the McVay Highway waterfront running south from Franklin. MS. Griesel is the City's Economic Development Manager.

OCTOBER 19 – REPRESENTATIVE PETER DEFazio

Meet Representative DeFazio and ask him about the issues that concern you.

PUBLIC CALENDAR

All items are tentative and subject to change

SPRINGFIELD CITY COUNCIL

October 9 – Work session 5:30 p/m/
Springfield Look
Springfield Chamber Request

October 16
Work Session 6:00 p.m.
Regular Session 7:00 p.m.
PH Supp. Budget 1

October 23 5:30 p.m.
Team Springfield Annual Meeting
525 Mill Street

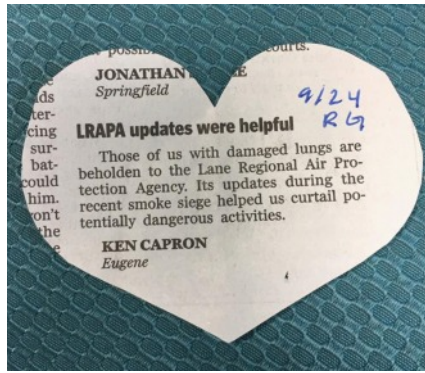
October 30 No Meeting

LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

OCTOBER 5– EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:00 P.M.
OCTOBER 10 – REGULAR MEETING 9:00 A.M.
OCTOBER 17 – REGULAR MEETING 9:00 A.M.
OCTOBER 24 – NO MEETING

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critical days in September, and increased over 300-fold on the peak day (September 5, 2017). Normally the LRAPA website receives an average of 1,306 visits per day; during the first nine days of September, we averaged 36,675 visits per day, and on September 5th we had 73,546 website visits. And people spent more time on our website: 5,810 hours on the peak day compared to the normal average of just under 10 hours per day. We also had substantial increased visits to our Twitter and Facebook pages, with many re-postings by individuals and news media. The



responses were some of the nicest things I have heard in my 12 years here at LRAPA. Here are some of the "5-Star Reviews" we received: " "LRAPA went above the call of duty on Labor Day weekend, by posting updates despite the holiday closure.

"Thanks for keeping your community informed!"
 "Thanks for working hard to keep the community well informed and safe!"
 "Where would we be without you during these dark smoky days?"
 The frosting on the cake was this letter to the editor in the Register Guard a few days ago: It was very gratifying to see the cooperative response throughout our community in the midst of this wildfire adversity.

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OCTOBER 31 – REGULAR MEETING 8:00 A.M.

LANE TRANSIT DISTRICT

October 18 – Board meeting 5:30 p.m.

SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL BOARD

The agenda for scheduled board meetings can be found at www.springfield.k12.or.us/boardmeetings the Thursday before the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

October 9 Business Meeting 7:00 p.m.

October 23 Planning Meeting 4:00 p.m.

WILLAMALANE PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT

October 11 – Board meeting 6:30 p.m.

SPRINGFIELD UTILITY BOARD

October 11 – Board meeting 6:00 p.m.

MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER 6 SPRINGFIELD UTILITY BOARD



Jeff Nelson, General manager of the Springfield Utility Board reviewed the future and potential for electric power in the region. He noted some particular challenges. On the whole, demand for electricity is stable or declining. He noted that this is a

challenge for the Bonneville Power Administration, from whom SUB gets all its power, in large part because the cost of power from alternative energy sources (solar and wind) is declining, as is the cost for storage of electricity. Solar power presents a particular issue, because solar production generally peaks at about the same time as hydro-generated power, meaning that BPA has excess power during the day, but needs to ramp up to sustain full power at night. It is very difficult to predict the market of the future. For example,



increasing use of electric vehicles may drive demand up, but at the same time reductions in brick and mortar shopping (in favor of online) may result in fewer miles being driven. At present, fixed costs are not being fully recovered through fixed base charges. Redressing this may have undesirable impacts on customer rates, particularly low-income consumers and may make time of use pricing not a viable solution. This is likely to be exacerbated as more and more electric power is not a monopoly, and users have choices in selecting an energy provider, which means there could be flight from hydro power to electric or wind power. Since BPA is prohibited from entering the solar market, the pressure on BPA is likely to increase. Already, California has begun to eliminate new large-scale projects, in recognition of the reality that customers are able to install their own solar generating capacity. Mr. Nelson also touched briefly on UB's telecommunications role. He noted that SUB has a fiber ring built throughout the City which the SUB board believes should be leveraged to facilitate private competition. SUB, he said, has no interest in becoming a provider of user telecom services. He also noted that the City is a participant in an arrangement which controls a great deal of fiber in southwestern Oregon and hopes to work with that facility to make more efficient service available.