

Understanding Homelessness

We see it every day.

We see it everywhere; Eugene, the Valley, the coast, through out the state and beyond.

We turn our heads so we don't have to engage.

We avoid certain areas, certain streets.

We see the tents, push carts, all the belongings, what is kept and what is left behind.

We see the people: individuals, couples, children, young and old. And we get angry. And we should be angry.



But to whom? To 'them'?, to local government?, to state government?, to federal government?, our economic system?, education system?, health care system?

As we start a new year, both local and state government leaders want to address the homeless issue making it a priority. But what does that mean? How are they proposing to have the discussions so there's a full understanding of what has created the situation? Are they dealing with the symptoms or are they going to get 'down and dirty', and look at dealing with the origins of the crisis? And the future (numbers are only growing).

There are many questions, and many of us think we have 'solutions'. And we have our bias.

In order to understand the discussions that will be taking place we have to understand the issue. Who are the homeless? How does someone become homeless? Why are some people in a chronic long term situation while some are able transition to a better life? What is in those carts? What role do drugs play? What role does mental health status play? A day in their life???

To help provide that understanding, **SHiNA will be hosting a panel discussion and 'community conversation' on homelessness.** Panelists will be Heather Selecki (community advocate), Kelly McIver (Communications Manager, Unhoused Response, City of Eugene) and Tracy Joscelyn (Co-manager, Nightingale Hosted Shelter). We hope to see you there. If you have questions regarding this event, contact Chris Jockheck at (715) 573-8022.

**SHiNA General Membership Meeting
Wednesday, February 15 at 6:30 p.m.
Hilyard Community Center
2580 Hilyard Street, Eugene**

3rd Annual Neighbors Helping Neighbors

All Neighborhoods Food Drive For Food For Lane County

Drop off site: Wayne Morse Family Farm

595 Crest Drive, Eugene

Saturday, February 11, 2023

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Volunteers needed on the day of the event.

Contact shina_board@googlegroups.com

Your donated pantry items go to help those struggling to put food on the table in our community. The most needed items are peanut butter, tuna, canned vegetables, canned soups, stews, and chili.



Due to cold storage requirements for frozen food and baked goods, these items cannot be accepted. However checks or cash can be dropped off and FFLC will purchase and handle storage of these items.

To donate funds online: foodforlanecounty.org/donate/donate-funds/donate-online. Check the SHiNA Website for updates on additional locations and other ways to donate to Food for Lane County.

EWEB Pledge to Prepare

It is everyone's responsibility to be prepared for disasters which are becoming more common and frequent. That means being able to survive on our own for a couple of weeks according to the Oregon Department of Emergency Management. As an experiment, try going without trips to the store or gas station for a few days. What will you need?

Putting together emergency supplies can be a daunting task, but EWEB has a program that helps households do just that via a monthly step by step process. By signing up with EWEB's Pledge to Prepare, participants are given a short list to accomplish each month. January's list has only four items. That is only one item per week.

- Plastic totes or duffle bags
- 3 Days of food
- Flashlights and batteries
- Hand operated can opener

The following is an excerpt from The Oregonian (12/30/33). For more info on rebates see full article online.

Electrify Your Life in 2023 to Fight Climate Change

By: Gosia Wozniacka, *The Oregonian*

Moving to clean energy – electrifying our houses, cars, and appliances – is widely considered a necessary step to help stave off catastrophic global warming. Now, it may finally be financially feasible, through the federal Inflation Reduction Act – the mammoth clean energy bill Congress approved in August – and various state and local initiatives.

A few caveats to keep in mind: The energy grid is still far from clean. In Oregon, about half of all electricity is produced from renewables, including hydropower, solar and wind. That means the other half comes from fossil fuels, mainly from natural gas and coal from out-of-state plants. House Bill 2021 aims to tackle that problem by requiring the state's two major power companies to achieve carbon-free electricity by 2040.

All those new electric vehicles (EVs), heat pumps, and induction cooktops will also need a lot more electricity than Oregon currently generates. That means modernizing the grid by building more transmission lines and on-site battery storage. While the endeavor may seem daunting, experts say electricity-generating capacity will increase to meet the higher demand as electrification efforts ramp up.

One thing you can do in 2023 to electrify, with the help of rebates and tax credits, is to buy a new or used electric vehicle.

The transportation sector accounts for more than 40% of Oregon's greenhouse gas emissions. Gas-powered vehicles not only add to global warming, but also spoil our air quality. Starting in January, Oregonians can qualify for up to \$15,000 in rebates and tax credits on new electric vehicles. The state offers two cash rebates for Oregon drivers

who purchase or lease electric vehicles or plug-in hybrids under \$50,000. The Standard Rebate of up to up to \$2,500 is available regardless of income and can be received at participating dealers, while the Charge Ahead Rebate of \$5,000 is aimed at low or moderate-income households and must be accessed via a mail-in application. The two rebates can be combined for up to \$7,500 cash back.

On top of that, starting on Jan. 1, many Oregonians qualify for a federal tax credit of up to \$7,500 for new EVs under the *Inflation Reduction Act*. Those who buy a used EV can qualify for a \$4,000 credit. There are caps on vehicle prices and buyer incomes. In an effort to stimulate the lagging domestic EV market – including battery recycling and mining of source minerals for electric car batteries – and to answer social and environmental justice concerns surrounding such mining across the globe, the legislation includes strict requirements on sourcing for battery components and where parts and vehicles are manufactured. As a result, some consumers may initially be restricted to smaller credits. Starting in 2024, buyers will be able to transfer their tax credits to registered car dealers, meaning an immediate rebate on a new or used EV.

Some utilities across Oregon are also offering rebates on items such as home chargers that support the use of electric vehicles. And the federal legislation offers low-income and rural households a 30% tax credit for installing home electric vehicle chargers.

For more information: Emerald Valley Electric Vehicle Association (EVEVA) promotes electric vehicle consumer education.

Southwest Hills Neighborhood Association

www.swHillsEugene.com

- *Be Engaged.... Know Your Neighbors and Volunteer*
- *Be Informed.... Receive SHiNA updates via email*
- *Be Involved.... Discuss with neighbors at SHiNA meetings & events in person or Zoom*



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Welcome New SHiNA Chair

Chris Jockheck, the new chair of the SHiNA board, has been actively involved in organizing the “Understanding Homelessness” event.

SHiNA Board Members

Chris Jockheck, Chair; Clay Neal, Secretary
Fred Mallery, Treasurer; Bev McDonald, Newsletter
At Large: Ralph McDonald, Rita Fiedler

SHiNA is seeking additional neighbors to join our board! Neighborhood Associations are officially recognized City of Eugene advisory bodies. They also organize programs to benefit the neighborhood. SHiNA board members meet once per month with mid-summer and winter holidays break from meeting. If interested, contact SHiNA.

In Appreciation

The SHiNA Board would like to acknowledge and thank **Ralph, Fred, Dana, and Michael** for their work on the SHiNA Board.

Ralph McDonald has been co-chair of SHiNA for several years. He will continue on the board. Fred Mallery has been co-chair during this past year and will continue as treasurer. Dana Furgerson has served as board member and treasurer. Michael Lainoff served as an at-large board member.

To contact SHiNA

shina_board@googlegroups.com