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EUGENE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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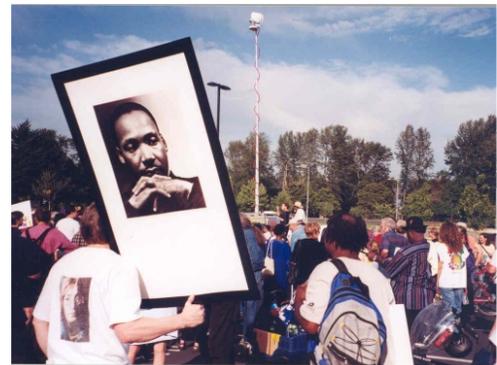
AROUND THE CITY

Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration and Human Rights Commission Awards: January 20

On Monday, Jan. 20, the Human Rights Commission will honor four community members with its annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Leadership Award. The awards will be presented at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration being hosted at Lane Community College at 6:30 p.m. in the Ragozzino Performance Hall. This year's award winners are Francisca Leyva Johnson, Mary Spilde, Carmen Urbina, and Rose Mary Villanueva.

The Human Rights Commission will also be participating in the NAACP Standing United March beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the Science Factory parking lot, and ending at the Shedd Institute in downtown Eugene. For more information on these and other Martin Luther King, Jr. events, visit eugene-or.gov/hrc.

For more information on the Human Rights Commission, please visit eugene-or.gov/hrc or contact Equity and Human Rights Analyst Lindsey Foltz at Lindsey.m.foltz@ci.eugene.or.us or call 541-682-5619.



Training Exercise Tests Option for Emergency Water Service

As recent events in West Virginia underscore, there are many scenarios besides the "great shake" earthquake where the community could face a prolonged water service disruption. Last year, Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) purchased the first of several mobile water trailers to dispense drinking water under emergency conditions. Testing out the trailer in a "live" situation is one way the utility is working to be better prepared for an actual event.

On Friday, Jan. 10, EWEB, Rainbow Water District and Springfield Utility District took part in a joint training exercise hosted at the City of Eugene's Public Works Roosevelt Yard. To mimic a situation where EWEB is unable to access water from its system, water was pulled from the Moe Reservoir in north Springfield, placed in a portable tank, and transported to a community shelter (aka Roosevelt Yard) for distribution via the trailer. City of Eugene staff was invited to participate in the drill by acting as residents in need of water.

About 50 staff members took the time to line up at the trailer to fill their containers, learn more about emergency preparedness planning, and take a brief survey to help improve signage, messaging and the overall experience. The training exercise was an invaluable opportunity to practice roles and responsibilities between the water providers and troubleshoot the process to uncover areas for improvement.



EWEB expressed gratitude to the participating agencies for their planning and logistical assistance in advance of the exercise and day of support from City staff. Such partnerships and inter-agency coordination is essential to improving incident response and community resiliency when disaster strikes. For more information, contact Public Works Safety Coordinator Kristi Hayden at 541-682-4848.

Explore the Universe at Eugene Public Library

Join University of Oregon physicist James Brau for a fascinating introduction to the “hidden universe” of dark matter, dark energy and gravitational waves at the Downtown Eugene Public Library on Saturday, Jan. 18, at 2 p.m. Admission is free.



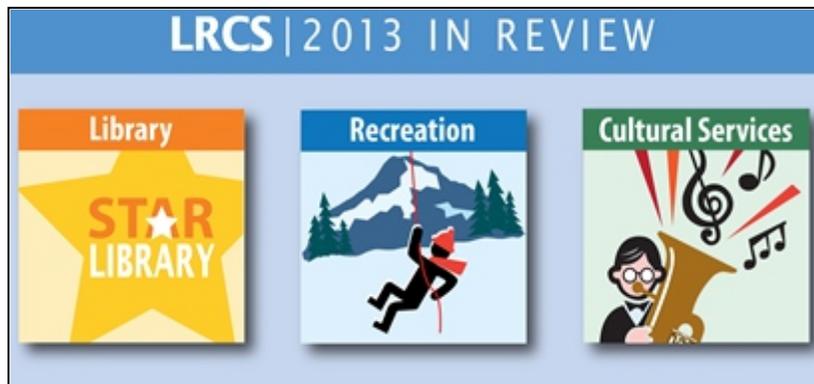
The visible universe inspires awe and wonder – but there is much more to it than can be directly seen. Scientists have discovered that there is far more invisible “dark matter” in the universe than ordinary matter made of atoms, but they still don’t know exactly what dark matter is. Even more intriguing, “dark energy” fills the universe, dominates the energy content of all matter, and causes expansion of the universe to accelerate.

Because humans can’t directly view these phenomena, scientists work to understand them indirectly with techniques such as observing the motion of stars within galaxies, relative motion of galaxies, and radiation from the Big Bang. They also use searches in underground laboratories and at high energy particle colliders. A potential new window on the hidden universe will soon open with the search for gravitational radiation through the operation of Advanced LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory).

Dr. Brau is the Knight Professor of Natural Science and director of the University of Oregon’s Center for High Energy Physics; a leader in the global effort to develop and construct the International Linear Collider, the next large High Energy Physics Collider; and a member of the LIGO Scientific Collaboration since it was founded in 1997. For more information, contact the Eugene Public Library at 541-682-8316 or www.eugene-or.gov/library.

LRCS Uses Info Graphics and Humor to Liven Annual Report

The Library, Recreation and Cultural Services Department’s (LRCS) annual report this year is – well, different. Gone is the commonplace 12-page booklet used for years. In its place is an [online document](#) that uses creative graphic images to depict the department’s accomplishments, service highlights and milestones over the 12 months ending June 30.



This “info graphic” report enabled staff to tell the department’s story in ways especially meaningful to residents. For instance, visitors to the Eugene Public Library in 2013 numbered more than 1.2 million. That’s impressive. But the information is perhaps even better comprehended when info graphics explain that the number of library visitors equals 22 capacity-filled Autzen Stadiums. (The library is much quieter, of course.)

LRCS/ 2013 in Review consists of four web pages: the department title and overview and one page for each division. Each page is full of unique comparisons and interesting facts. For example: Recreation Services offered nearly 35,000 hours of opportunities for patrons to be active and build their bodies and brains in 2013. As it happens, that’s nearly 10 times longer than it took settlers to travel the Oregon Trail. (Recreation activities have a much higher survival rate.)

An important achievement for each division is ensuring that their services are accessible. Cultural Services provided access to some 31,000 event attendees in 2013 – four and one-half times more than the number of performances by the longest-running musical on Broadway, *Les Miserables*.

LRCS 2013 in Review is packed full of links to web pages and videos with more detail about the department. A limited number of hard copy reports are available with QR code links to the videos. The URL for *LRCS 2013 in Review* is www.eugene-or.gov/LRCS. Viewers may link to the division pages from there and also from each division’s home page. For more information, contact LRCS Marketing and Public Information Manager Kathy Madison at 541-682-6342.