

Full Access News

Spring 2024

Prepare-A-Palooza Recap



Over the past few years, Lane County residents have been faced with the effects of snow and ice storms, as well as fire, smoke, and windstorms. On March 6, 2024, our community came together for an important event focused on emergency preparedness. Prepare-a-Palooza was aimed at equipping attendees with the knowledge, resources, and tools needed to stay safe and ready in times of crisis.

Community partners, first responders and other local resources came together to offer presentations, and interactive demonstrations. We had over 20 booths with local resources offering information on preparing for emergencies. As participants visited the various booths, they were able to gather important information and even some emergency preparedness items.

There were educational workshops covering a range of topics including the importance of preparing GO Bags (Lane County Public Health), personal disaster preparedness (Resource Tap Disaster Support Services), loss of power (EWEB), preparing your pets for an emergency (Greenhill Humane Society), learning how the brain responds in an emergency (Alexis Reed Behavior Consulting), and how you and your providers can prepare for an emergency (Creating Options).

Attendees had the chance to participate in hands-on demonstrations, such as hands-only CPR. These interactive activities helped individuals practice essential emergency procedures in a controlled environment.

Local organizations and emergency response agencies set up booths to provide valuable information and resources to the community. Attendees could learn about emergency kits, disaster planning and preparing for an emergency, pet preparedness, creating evacuation plans, route preparedness, first aid, fire alarm safety, home safety tips, and preparing for an emergency when untraditionally housed. Communication cards and buttons were available, as well as slime and a sensory table. Attendees also had an opportunity to take part in a survey on barriers to emergency preparedness.

Attendees were able to meet with emergency responders, 911 representatives, and other experts in emergency planning. Emergency vehicles were on site.

The fair fostered a sense of community resilience and cooperation, emphasizing the importance of neighbors helping each other during emergencies. Participants were encouraged to build strong networks and support systems to enhance overall preparedness and response capabilities.



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Thank you to our vendors and community partners who helped make this event a success, and to our clients for their enthusiastic participation. A huge thank you to our sponsors, without which Prepare-A-Palooza would not have been possible: Goodwill Industries of Lane and South Coast Counties, National Business Solutions, Employment Connections, Inc., Lane County Public Health, and the Oregon County Fair.

Scan the QR code to visit our Emergency Preparedness Digital Library.



Client's Corner

Eric moved to Eugene from Portland, where he spent a few years after a lifetime in Los Angeles, CA. He got connected with Oregon Vocational Rehabilitation Services (OVRs), where he got help to gather records and information to be tested for autism, a diagnosis he and his family believed he had.

He finally received his diagnosis in November 2023 at 52 years old. Better late than never! Eric faced challenges most of his life. He struggled maintaining a job without supports and feared he would never be successful. Social situations were always difficult, and he felt uncomfortable and anxious most of the time.

With his new diagnosis, Eric feels empowered to ask for help and support so he can find and keep a job, engage in enriching social activities, and navigate the community to go to the places he would like to. With supports like case management from his Personal Agent at Full Access, his counselor at Vocational Rehabilitation, job developer/coach and Attendant Care/Day Support Activities at his provider agency, Eric has a well-rounded team of professionals to ensure he lives the life he wants with the activities he chooses.

Eric is extremely creative and loves making experimental music, creating digital art, writing, reading, and spending time at home with his long-term partner and their cat Malcolm.

Welcome to Full Access, Eric! Your future awaits!



211

211 is a 24/7 go-to resource that connects millions with locally available help. Expert, caring call center operators are supporting 99% of the U.S. population. People can contact 211 by phone or text, or online at 211.org. Local 211 specialists can help with virtually any need you might face.



Client Spotlight

Meet Matthew!

If you frequent The Public House in Springfield, there is a slight chance you may have seen or interacted with Matthew. He certainly knows how to stand out with his charming smile and brightly colored, tie-dyed t-shirts.

Matthew genuinely loves to help and to be of service to others. He has always sought out ways to keep busy and prefers to have an assigned task rather than sitting idle. Everyone he meets has high praise for his work ethic and ability to take initiative.

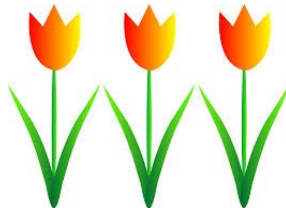
On shift, Matthew is all business. Staff report that he clocks in and gets right to his assigned tasks. As a dining room attendant at The Public House, he is responsible for sweeping, mopping, and vacuuming the common areas, taking out the trash and recyclable materials, sanitizing surfaces, and putting dishes away. He also has opportunities to help with the occasional customer service need, which gives him a chance to work on his communication skills.

Working allows Matthew to maintain a routine and engage in activities that are meaningful to him. He is not solely motivated by money, but he loves to earn a paycheck and bring home tips - \$20 being the highest single tip to date! Matthew's mom, Becky, shared that his position is a good way to learn and practice new skills, and that he has grown as a person.

Matthew and Becky both appreciate the ongoing vocational support provided by McKenzie Personnel Services (MPS). MPS has worked closely with Matthew and his family to create a good working relationship with The Public House and their employees. The job coaches help to set the tone for Matthew's workday with upbeat, infectious attitudes and professionalism.

Before starting his job at The Public House in 2021, Matthew was a long-time volunteer at Food for Lane County. He boxed lunches for school programs, sorted donations, and cleaned. Matthew's favorite activity, however, was learning food preparation. This allowed him to gain experience with comfortably using a knife and safely handling food. Matthew was well liked, and his contributions were so valued that he earned an award for being an outstanding volunteer.

When Matthew isn't working, he likes to spend time with his family. Since Matthew is not one for relaxing, he keeps busy by helping with chores, playing video games, reading, and going on road trips. He loves nature and spending time outside. He envisions a future with a house with a big yard and lots of trees.





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Welcome to our Two New Personal Agents!



Kristi has worked in the I/DD community since high school. She has extensive experience supporting individuals in various roles including in residential, vocational, and recreational services. She met her husband while working at a summer camp that served people with disabilities. They worked together traveling and camping all around Northern California, taking the individuals out to explore and participate in fun activities like whitewater rafting, backpacking, and a variety of museums. In her time off she enjoys spending time with her family and being outdoors. She loves everything purple and dachshunds- and currently has two of them.

Kelsie is a mom, avid reader, and community-building enthusiast with a passion for coffee and rock hunting. In her downtime, you'll often find her curled up with a good book, savoring a cup of her favorite coffee, or embarking on outdoor adventures with her family. Kelsie finds joy in both the simple pleasures of life and the enriching connections she shares with those around her.

