

your Lane

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Excellence Achieved

Lane County's Waste Management Division received the prestigious Longstanding Program Excellence Award from the North American Hazardous Materials Management Association (NAHMMA) at its 26th Annual Hazardous Materials Management Conference held in Portland, Oregon in September.

"It's really an honor to get this kind of recognition from a national organization like NAHMMA," said Waste Management Superintendent Jeff Bishop, "and it couldn't go to a more deserving group of people. Our special waste program staff (Chad Ficek, Larry Gibbs, Chris Glenn and Todd Grenz) work so hard to keep finding new ways to serve our customers."

The Waste Management Division administers a broad array of programs and resources related to waste reduction and toxics minimization, including providing recycling education for schools, operating a highly successful permanent and mobile household hazardous waste collection program free to residents, and providing hazardous waste collection for small businesses.

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NAHMMA Award *(continued)*

In addition, program staff has looked for ways to partner with other stakeholders to conduct special projects that have the potential to have a positive impact on the community. For example, an ongoing multi-agency program offered to growers in the McKenzie River watershed has collected more than 40 tons of unwanted agricultural pesticides, while the very successful “Rehab the Lab” program cleaned out old science-lab inventory in 21 of Lane County’s 23 public and private school districts. If you’ve returned burnt-out fluorescent lamps for recycling at one of 16 participating retailers, well, that’s Lane County’s program, too.

Each year NAHMMA recognizes organizations, programs, and individuals that manage household hazardous waste (HHW) and conditionally-exempt small quantity generator (CESQG) waste at its annual conference.

“NAHMMA is excited to honor hardworking HHW professionals like the team at Lane County Waste Management Division,” said NAHMMA President Dave Waddell. “Our organization and industry would not be what they are today without organizations like this one.”

Lane County held what is believed to be the first household hazardous waste “roundup” event in Oregon in 1986 and continues to hold several roundup events in rural Lane County each year. Since the Glenwood permanent collection facility opened in 1998, Lane County has collected nearly 4 million pounds of hazardous waste. Depending on its characteristics, hazardous waste diverted from the landfill is recycled, burned for energy recovery, or destroyed at a permitted hazardous waste incinerator. The Glenwood facility is open weekly; call 541-682-3111 for current hours.

For more information on the conference and NAHMMA visit:

www.nahmma.org



Rx Take Back

The Lane County Sheriff's Office, in collaboration with the City of Springfield Police Department, the City of Springfield Public Works, Lane County Public Works, and the Metropolitan Wastewater Commission, launched a local Prescription Drug Take Back Program to provide an on-going resource for Lane County residents to safely and securely turn in their unwanted, outdated or expired household medicines.

This new program is aimed at reducing the risk of household medicines being misused, abused, accidentally consumed by children or improperly disposed of.

Senator Ron Wyden issued his support for efforts to provide a safe way to dispose of prescription medications.

"There was a time when we thought of South America or Asia as the major sources of drugs," said Sen. Wyden. "Today, it's the home medicine cabinet. That's why this drug take back program is so important. The drugs that are languishing in medicine cabinets represent a

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danger to children, adults and the environment. Dropping them off at a secure location means they are being properly disposed off rather than going into the trash or down the drain."

Lane County originally participated in a take-back event in March 2010 with local agencies including Eugene Water

& Electric Board; Lane County's Public Health, Emergency Management, Waste Management, Youth Services and Sheriff's departments; the City of Springfield's Public Works and Police departments; the Springfield Utility Board; and the City of Eugene's Police and Public Works departments.

There's been significant interest in providing an on-going program that allows people to

safely dispose of their prescription medications. Secure prescription drop boxes are in place at: Lobby of the Lane County Sheriff's Office, 125 E. Eighth Ave., Eugene (hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday excluding legal holidays) and the lobby of the Springfield Justice Center, 230 Fourth St., in downtown Springfield.

Community members are encouraged to bring in the prescriptions in their original container to help ensure the medications are disposed of properly. All dropped off medication information is kept confidential.

The containers are NOT for the disposal of sharps, including diabetic sharps.



Underage gambling is a growing concern, particularly due to the nature of more electronic and “kid-friendly” types of games that are easily accessible to young people.

One of these potential kid-friendly games was Oregon Lottery’s planned online “ORcade,” which would offer second chance prizes for lottery tickets in addition to animated games, like the “Icicle Climb” game.

The Lane County Problem Gambling Advisory Committee (or PGAC) worked to raise awareness about the concerns of

Underage Gambling Is Serious Business

- **October 30, 2011:** PGAC guest opinion runs in Register-Guard
- **December 2011:** Lane County H&HS Prevention Program staff is invited to be part of a five-person advisory panel to review Lottery marketing practices

Key tips:

Parents, let kids know that gambling can be risky. It doesn’t need to be a complicated conversation; talk about it in the same conversation as with drugs and alcohol.

Free and confidential help is available for ANYONE in Oregon with a gambling problem, in addition to their loved ones, by calling the 24-hour help line, 1-877-MY-LIMIT.

For more information and helpful, practical tips, visit www.preventionlane.org/gambling.

Did you Know?

- Six percent of Oregon teens are already “at risk” or meet the criteria for problem gambling (2008 study of gambling and Oregon youth).
- “Free” Internet gambling is the most popular game cited by teens.
- Teens who gamble are twice as likely to use alcohol, drugs, and skip school → (2010 Oregon Student Wellness Survey data)
- Only a third of parents of 11th graders in Lane County have talked with their kids about the risks of gambling.



ORcade and other potentially attractive games to kids. Using prevention data and our experience with youth, the advisory committee worked with the Governor’s Office, and featured this issue in social and print media. Parents and community members across Oregon responded and so did the Governor, who directed the Lottery to postpone the launch of ORcade.

Why the concern?

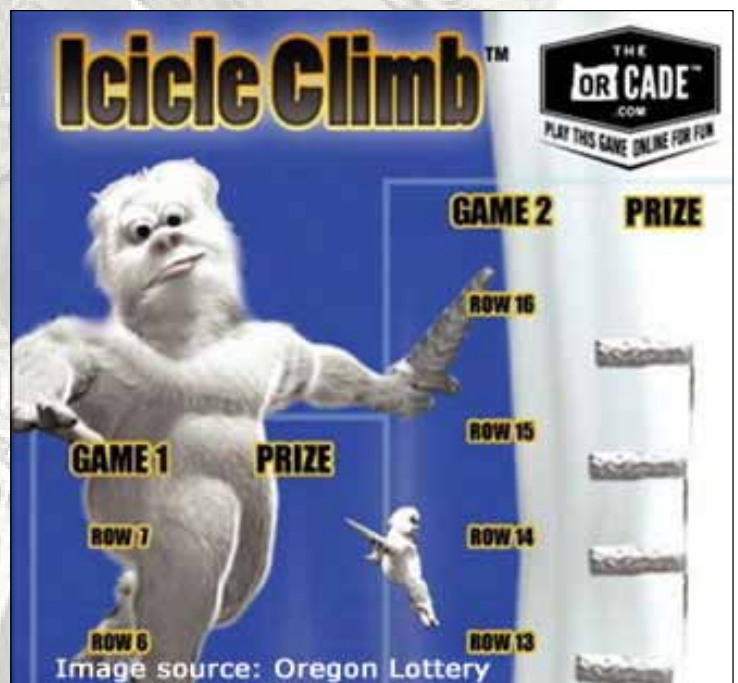
Recent brain research shows that the brain isn’t fully developed until age 25, and teens are more sensitive to the effects of dopamine, a brain chemical linked to pleasurable sensations. And we now know that dopamine levels are affected by gambling. A teen brain that becomes “hooked” on substances or gambling can potentially cause a shortcut in final development of the part of the brain responsible for decision-making and executive function. Since research shows that the earlier in life someone begins to gamble, the more likely they are to develop a problem, prevention experts encourage youth to wait until they are of age to start gambling responsibly.

What’s next?

The Oregon Lottery announced in late December that they would be putting together a five-member panel, which includes Lane County Health & Human Services Prevention Program staff. The panel’s directive is to examine whether or not the Oregon Lottery’s marketing and online site will promote problem gambling. The results of the panel’s findings will help shape how the lottery moves forward in the future.

Timeline:

- **September 2011:** PGAC meets with the Governor’s Department of Human Services policy advisor, Duke Shepard, expressing concern about ORcade and marketing practices
- **October 18, 2011:** Governor mandates Lottery Commission to delay launch of ORcade



The Lottery’s new “Icicle Climb” scratch ticket was to begin in conjunction with the launch of the ORcade.



This year's Address drew a great crowd of about 150 people to the Lane Events Center Gleason Atrium. It was the first year in recent memory that a State of the County event was held at night.

There was great food from the MLK Culinary Art program and Big Green Events. We also had the Pleasant Hill School Solar Jazz Band, a Presentation of Colors



by the Boy Scout Troop No. 701, and a "Year in Review" video that captured just some of the many great projects and accomplishments in 2011.

The Address itself also had a different vibe. Commissioner Stewart (as 2011 Board Chair) gave an

Address that outlined new Mission, Vision, Values, and Goals and a new outlook for Lane County.

"We are an organization that has consistently achieved regardless of the odds. While we must make careful decisions – we are embracing a new outlook and a new approach to our challenges," Stewart said. "They won't define us. They will encourage us to expand our creativity."

The Board recognized Assessment and Taxation, and Information Services staff with an Innovation Award. They were selected for their collaborative effort to assist other counties (including Lake, Gilliam, Wheeler, and Crook) in technical support for A&T systems that reduce the cost of tax administration for those four counties and provide an ongoing revenue stream to Lane County. Nicely done!

The Board also recognized CASA of Lane County and their Executive Director Megan Schultz for their innovative work to change the lives of nearly 4,000 children by providing them with powerful advocacy.

You can read the State of the County Address by clicking on the link at www.lanecounty.org

Want to watch our Year in Review? Check it out at <http://vimeo.com/34908762>

Lane County Strategic Planning

In early December, the Board of Commissioners unanimously adopted the Lane County Strategic Plan 2012-2017. With a revised mission, vision, and values and five ambitious goals, the Board has given the County overall direction and a destiny beyond the immediate budget woes. Work on the plan began last spring when the Board quickly agreed on new mission and vision statements and identified shared values.

Over the summer, the Commissioners worked with managers to identify four areas for goal development: public safety, public health, economic development, and the County's financial stability. Lists of desired outcomes were brainstormed and narrowed down. Goal Teams met with a sense of urgency to review data, consult advisors, and identify the most impactful possible goals. Unlike the County's 2000 Strategic Plan, the goals in the new plan are more specific, time bound and measurable. We know that specific and measurable goals are more likely to be achieved. They also help us envision Lane County's future.

The public safety and public health teams had advisors from both service areas. They successfully fulfilled the Board's directive to "weave together" the improvement of both public health and public safety. Property crime, fetal/infant mortality, and child maltreatment were specifically chosen because they are associated with a wide range of problems for our families and communities and success will improve the overall quality of life in Lane County.

The economic development goal team identified several possible goals. After more discussion, the Board gave the team additional direction and requested the engagement of the Economic Development Standing Committee. Committee members responded to the urgent request and provided much appreciated insight. The Commissioners ultimately agreed on two economic development goals with strong support from their advisors.

The team reviewing the County's financial stability had several active discussions; however, trying to distill the many ideas into a specific goal was too limiting and not a good fit with the Strategic Plan framework. Instead, the team encouraged the Board and management to continue to pursue all cost control and revenue maximizing strategies. For example, by moving to new health plans that are forecast to increase cost slower than former plans, County employees are taking a significant step toward mitigating the County's structural deficit. The County Administrator's Innovate Lane County initiative generated hundreds of ideas to

improve efficiencies, streamline process, and focus on service.

The next steps will be for teams to reform to develop action plans and timelines. Staff will update Commissioners routinely through the year. The Board will review and updates the Strategic Plan annually. While the start of 2012 hold big budget decisions, the Strategic Plan will help County leadership keep a long view while making immediate decisions. For more information go to www.lanecounty.org and click on "Strategic Planning".



Innovate Takes Shape

In fall 2011, Lane County Administrator Liane Richardson launched Innovate Lane County. Through this new process, Lane County employees generated more than 1,000 ideas for countywide changes to increase efficiencies in service delivery while maintaining great customer service.

"The level of passion, creativity, and consideration employees and leaders gave to this process cements my belief that the future of Lane County isn't what happens 'to us' via budgetary challenges, mandates or other hurdles," said Richardson. "The future of Lane County is what we make it with our effort, dedication, and commitment to the residents we serve."

Lane County is examining ways to streamline contracting processes, create ways to access commercial property information online, and provide technology services outside of the needs of our day-to-day operations. The biggest ideas focused on the pattern of our footprint, or how we're structured to provide services. Merging service areas presents exciting possibilities in generating efficiencies while continuing to provide essential services.

Task force teams are exploring these organizational changes in greater depth to examine the opportunities and challenges that might arise. Keep reading Your Lane for updates as this dynamic process continues.

Winter RV'ing Yeah, we do that!

Lane County Parks goes through seasonal changes just like any business or service throughout the year. During the spring and summer months, we see the opening of all of our park facilities to passive and active recreation opportunities. Activities include everything from beach volleyball by Fern Ridge Lake to wonderful hikes in natural open spaces within the Howard Buford Recreation Area. It's the peak season for us and thousands of visitors a day enjoy what we have to offer.

In the fall and winter months, we see less visitors and things slow down a little. Some parks close completely to give us the opportunity make improvements or perform needed maintenance. Other parks stay open but are not as busy. It's a great time to come out and spend some quality alone time.

One service that we provide stays consistent through all seasons: RV camping. Our premier RV campgrounds are open year-round and provide everything from beautiful scenery and friendly Camp hosts, to cable television to keep tabs on your favorite team and Wi-Fi Internet service so you can Skype® with the family. Both Armitage Campground in Eugene and Harbor Vista Campground in Florence offer their own unique winter RV'ing atmosphere and we have folks traveling across the country to experience it.

↔ **Armitage Park** covers 57 acres on the banks of the beautiful McKenzie River north of Eugene on Coburg Road. The campground offers 37 sites, an off-leash dog park, boat ramp, horseshoe pits, and full hookups.

The half-mile Crilly Nature Trail takes you along a self-guided experience through the unique deciduous forest habitat that grows along the McKenzie River.

↔ **Harbor Vista Campground**, located in Florence on North Jetty Road, is one of the few campgrounds on the Oregon coast with an ocean view, perched above the North Jetty of the Siuslaw River. The campground offers 38 camp sites with showers, beach access, swing set, and an ocean viewing structure. The campground is also close to some of Oregon's finest attractions such as the Sea Lion Caves, Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area, Sand Pines Golf Course on the Oregon Dunes, and Heceta Head Lighthouse.

So, for those of you who enjoy the RV lifestyle and want something that might be closer to home, Lane County Parks can serve you all year. Please come out and see us. You'll be glad you did!

For more information on all Lane County Parks go to www.lanecounty.org/ or call 541-682-2000.