

BEST LOCAL UPROAR

1. **New City Hall**
2. **EMX**
3. **Whoville**

Eugene's full-block City Hall was considered a design masterpiece in the 1960s and an excellent example of mid-20th century Northwest modern architecture, but it was allowed to deteriorate in recent years as city staff dreamt of new offices in a shiny glass palace. The uproar over plans to demolish the still-solid, 50-year-old structure with its 120 covered parking spaces was fueled by a lively group of architects in the community who challenged the rationale for the destruction. Those councilors and Mayor Kitty Piercy, who supported tearing down the building, will likely be asked to defend their votes in the next election.

BEST HUMANITARIAN NONPROFIT

1. **FOOD for Lane County** 770 Bailey Hill Rd. 343-2822. foodforlanecounty.org.
2. **St. Vincent de Paul** 555 High St., 344-2115; 100 E. 11th Ave., 868-0200. svdp.us.
3. **Womenspace** 1577 Pearl St. 485-8232. womenspaceinc.org.

BEST ENVIRO ORGANIZATION

1. **BRING Recycling** 4446 Franklin Blvd. 746-3023. bringrecycling.org.
2. **Cascadia Wildlands** 1247 Willamette St. 434-1463. cascwild.org.
3. **McKenzie River Trust** 1245 Pearl St. 345-2799. mckenzieriver.org.

Just as FOOD for Lane County brings home first-place honors year after year for Best Humanitarian Nonprofit, BRING Recycling is almost a sure thing for Best Enviro Organization, perhaps because BRING lets us bargain-shop to our hearts' delight while still feeling righteous about reusing and recycling. Cascadia Wildlands, from its work to try to save the Elliott State Forest to its unending commitment to hearing the howls of wolves across the state, came in second this year and, last but not least, McKenzie River Trust is a tireless advocate for our area's clean water and habitat for Oregon's flora and fauna.

BEST LOCAL HELLRAISER

1. **Kevin Cronin**
2. **Lefty Kelleher**
3. **Alley Valkyrie**

It's not easy being a hellraiser in this town. You work hard, piss people off and generally don't get paid, but that doesn't seem to stop anyone. The Whiteaker's Lefty Kelleher is a perennial bridesmaid-never-a-bride in this category, but that's OK — he was a winner earlier this year when he took home a year's supply of beer in the Eugene Pabst Blue Ribbon art contest. Alley Valkyrie left Eugene for Portland earlier this year, but she was in town long enough (and is still raising hell in the Eug from PDX) to make her eligible for this honor, which she won last year. Coming in as hellraiser No. 1 this year is Kevin Cronin. And just what hell does he raise? When Cronin isn't winning the Cowfish Dance Club Freek-Nite costume dance contest, "just dressed as I usually dress," he muses, he is the regional field director for the Democratic Party of Oregon. Cronin has also worked to union-organize Walmart employees, traveling the state to sign homocare and adult foster care workers up for Cover Oregon to get them access to health care, and he's worked to register Eugene's homeless population to vote. There is a ballot box at Opportunity Village, he says, and they are shooting for 85 percent turnout. Cronin is also the executive director of the nonprofit Grassroots Eugene, and for more on that, turn to our winners for Best Marijuana Dispensary.

STAFF PICKS

BEST PLACE FOR SECOND CHANCES

opportunityvillageeugene.org

Opportunity Village Eugene is micro-housing for more than 60 previously unhoused people that seeks to transition them to a more permanent situation. The project is a collaboration between community members lucky enough to be housed and those who need a home and shelter, consisting of 25 tiny dwellings clustered around a communal yurt. OVE seeks to make "positive changes in attitudes, policies and practices that harm the unhoused." The site is governed by its own residents, has an onsite program connecting residents with skill-based jobs and it grew out the 2011 Occupy movement when the unhoused and the housed came together and camped in a muddy park by the freeway entrance. That muddy park has blossomed into an example of innovation and cooperation for other cities around the country.

BEST NO-COST MEDICAL CARE

occupy-medical.org

Every Sunday at noon at the downtown Eugene Park Blocks (8th and Oak), rain or shine, you will see **Occupy Medical's** red-and-black bus surrounded by those in need of medical care, and community members are there to provide medical skills, hair cuts, food and support to anyone who needs it. Occupy Medical came to being at the Occupy Eugene camp as the medics there realized the unhoused needed more than first aid. From the beginning, OM hasn't just treated wounds; it has saved lives and soothed souls. The all-volunteer team operates on the principle that "healthcare is a basic human right that must be made accessible to everyone," and Eugene is better for it.

BEST THING ON FOUR WHEELS

whitebirdclinic.org/cahoots-faq

Life on the gritty streets of Eugene can prove nasty, brutish and unforgiving, especially for those among us dealing with addiction and/or mental health issues, which makes the rolling help provided by **CAHOOTS** not just laudably humane but, in this age of underfunded services and interventionist slouch, totally necessary. Short for Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets, CAHOOTS is a mobile crisis team run by White Bird Clinic and linked in with the city's public safety system that roves our streets like some latter-day A-team of superheroes, ready to assist in non-criminal emergencies ranging from intoxication and overdose to street disputes and psychotic breaks. Need a ride to Buckley for a spell of detox? Hearing voices again? Not sure where you are? Hop into the big white van with the helping hands.

BEST COMMUNITY SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR GIRLS

opheliasplace.net

Growing up can be both an exciting and confusing thing, especially for girls, who face a barrage of media criticism, perfectionist ideals and an over-emphasis on their bodies instead of their minds. Fostering a sense of community and support can help, and that's exactly what **Ophelia's Place** does, by creating a safe place for girls to meet, work together and share experiences. This can mean anything from art classes, like Anime Club, to the Women's Advisory Council for Youth, which helps girls develop leadership skills by advising Ophelia's Place on "creative ways to make a difference," according to OP's website. Even better, OP offers affordable, sliding-scale payments, and many of its classes are free.



PHOTO BY TODD COOPER