

Join Us in Celebrating Juneteenth in West Linn

The City of West Linn invites our community to come together in recognition of Juneteenth—one of the oldest nationally celebrated commemorations of the ending of slavery in the United States. On June 19, 1865, two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation, Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, and shared the news that all enslaved people were free. This moment marked a powerful turning point, symbolizing resilience, hope, and the enduring struggle for equality.

Throughout June, West Linn will offer several opportunities for reflection, learning, and celebration. We will host a special informational talk led by Tricia Brand, our Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) consultant, On June 26th in the Library Community Room at 630pm exploring the history and lasting impact of Juneteenth across the nation and here in Oregon.

In addition, West Linn will participate in Summer Connections at Clackamas Community College on Friday, June 6, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.—a vibrant countywide gathering that celebrates both Pride Month and Juneteenth, and brings together communities across Clackamas County in the spirit of unity.

We are also proud to present the **Juneteenth Story Walk**, a 15-panel, portable outdoor exhibit that traces the rich history of Juneteenth—from its beginnings in Galveston, Texas, through the evolution of Juneteenth celebrations in Oregon, including the pivotal role of Clara Peoples, who introduced Juneteenth to Oregon in 1945. The Story Walk also honors milestones such as the 2021 recognition of Juneteenth as an official Oregon state holiday and West Linn's own proclamation celebrating this important day.

To further support community engagement, the *West Linn Public Library* will *open free evening use of the Library Community Room during the week of Juneteenth for community-hosted programs that celebrate Juneteenth themes of freedom, resilience, and belonging.* We are now accepting applications from community members and organizations interested in hosting events.

We hope you will join us as we honor the journey from emancipation to today and celebrate the power of freedom, community, and connection. Together, we can continue to rise—building a future rooted in equity, hope, and unity.



Honor Freedom. Celebrate Community. Inspire Hope.

JUNE EVENTS: REFLECT, LEARN, CELEBRATE

June 6

5pm to 7pm - Summer Connections Celebration: Clackamas Community College, A vibrant countywide gathering celebrating Pride Month and Juneteenth together! Music, activities, and community connection.

June 26

6:30pm - Informational Talk with Tricia Brand: West Linn Public Library Community Room, Explore the rich history and lasting impact of Juneteenth, nationally and here in Oregon.

Juneteenth StoryWalk

Experience a 15-panel outdoor exhibit tracing Juneteenth's journey from Galveston, Texas, to Oregon. Learn about Clara Peoples, Oregon's "Mother of Juneteenth," and celebrate West Linn's proclamation honoring this historic day.

Community-Led Events

You're Invited! The Library Community Room will be open for **free** evening use during Juneteenth week! We are now accepting applications from community members and organizations interested in hosting Juneteenth-themed programs. **[CLICK HERE for the application.](#)**

