

# Oregon's Homeless Crisis

Local partnerships and  
collaboration are key to  
solving our statewide  
challenge



## ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

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This training is made available to CIS members with General Liability coverage. For more information about this training and registration, contact the CIS Learning Center at [learn@cisoregon.org](mailto:learn@cisoregon.org).



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\* <https://www.infrastructurereportcard.org>

\*\* 2017 IPSOS Survey of HomeServe policyholders and non-policyholders

# Local Focus



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# Preserving Tradition, Culture and Love



Patty Mulvihill  
Interim Executive Director

**H**istoric preservation at the local level focuses on preserving historic architecture and structures. And as a practical preservationist myself, during the course of my travels on behalf of the LOC, I often take time to admire the historic buildings and main streets sprinkled throughout Oregon. But a few weeks ago, while visiting the city of Dayville for work, I was reminded that when a community seeks to preserve its

original structures, the community isn't simply preserving a building or a façade, the community is in a very real sense preserving itself. Restoring or saving an old building is more than just securing the look or feel of what once was; it's about securing a culture, traditions, and, dare I say, love.

In 1920, residents of the city of Dayville decided that a community hall was needed. Eighty-seven residents purchased shares in the Hall Company, a nonprofit organized to build the community hall. Each share was purchased for \$25. Materials to construct the hall were purchased from the general area, and volunteers erected the structure. The community hall was completed later that year, and hosted its first event—an Armistice Day Dance.

*(continued on page 7)*



Dayville Community Hall

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## Apply to Serve on the LOC Board of Directors

The LOC is currently soliciting applications for service on its board of directors beginning in January 2023. Applications can be found by visiting the LOC website at [www.orcities.org](http://www.orcities.org). The application includes information on board responsibilities, what is expected of board members, and the time commitment it will take to serve as a director or LOC Treasurer.

The board sets the policy positions LOC takes, including advocacy at the Legislature. It also guides the LOC staff and oversees the budget.

LOC Vice President Steve Callaway, Hillsboro Mayor, says all of us who serve in elected positions bring unique life experiences, outlooks, understandings, interests, and expertise. When all these perspectives are represented on our Board from throughout our state, we are stronger as a League and can work together for better solutions to serve all our communities. "So I encourage all elected officials, regardless of their length of service, to consider applying for a Board position or any of our committees."

There are three types of board positions open for 2023:

- 1. LOC Treasurer.** There is one open position for treasurer. The LOC Treasurer is one of four board officers who serve on the LOC Executive Committee. The office of treasurer can be held by an elected or appointed city official and performs the following duties: chairs the LOC Budget and Finance Committees, signs the annual financial statement, and performs other duties that may be assigned by the LOC President or the board. The term of office is two years, with the term beginning on the first board meeting of the new calendar year following the election. Application deadline is **September 20**.
- 2. Elected City Official Director Position(s).** This year, there are four open Elected City Official Director positions. Elected City Official Directors represent all geographic regions of the state and varied city populations. The term of office for two of the Elected City Official Director positions is three years, with the term beginning on the first board meeting of the new calendar year following the election. The other two new directors will be filling board vacancies beginning in January and their term will expire on December 31, 2023. Application deadline is **September 20**.
- 3. Appointed City Official Director Position.** Each year, there is one open Appointed City Official Director position. The term of office for an Appointed City Official Director is three years. For the first year of the three-year term, this position will be non-voting. During the second year of the term, the position will be a voting board member. During the third year, the position will not only vote, but will also be a member of the LOC Executive Committee. **The application process for the Appointed City Official position closed on July 29.**

All applicants for the LOC Treasurer position and Elected Official Director position should note that they will be required to make

a presentation to the LOC Nominating Committee during a publicly noticed meeting on Wednesday, October 5, as part of the 97th LOC Annual Conference in Bend. The Nominating Committee will put forward its recommendation to the LOC membership during the LOC Annual Business Meeting, Friday, October 7.

Applicants for the Appointed City Official Director position will have their applications reviewed by the Oregon City/County Management Association's (OCCMA) Board of Directors. The OCCMA will select who it believes to be the best candidate, forward their recommendation to the LOC Nominating Committee, and the committee will put forward the OCCMA's recommendation on the slate of candidates it presents to the LOC membership during the Annual Business Meeting.

Candidates for all three offices should know that the LOC Bylaws allow for nominations from the floor during the LOC Annual Business Meeting.

### Contacts:

Lisa Trevino, Operations & Member Engagement Director - [ltrevino@orcities.org](mailto:ltrevino@orcities.org)

Patty Mulvihill, Interim Executive Director - [pmulvihill@orcities.org](mailto:pmulvihill@orcities.org)



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FROM THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

(continued from page 5)

Like we see in many small communities throughout Oregon, this large community center was used for a variety of purposes over a great many years. It hosted weddings, dances, movies, and during World War II it even served as an ammunition box factory. As time progressed, the community center began to age and its usefulness to the community became questionable. In 2021, thanks to more than \$2 million in grant funding and donations, the city of Dayville was able to restore the community center. Today, it stands as it did when it was built: a large central gathering hall that anchors the residents of Dayville to their community.

During my recent visit, Dayville’s city recorder and lead contractor were kind enough to give me a tour of the refurbished community center. While the updated work is impressive, the commitment to historic accuracy and preservation is admirable, and the amount of funding secured to complete the project is incredible. What impressed me the most was the city’s commitment to tradition, culture and love, including:

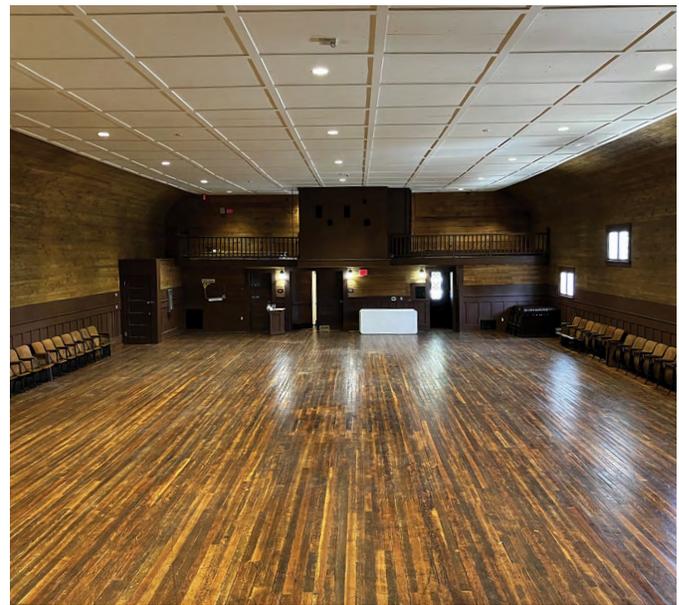
- Artifacts found inside of the community center’s walls during construction were saved, and will be displayed in a custom built cabinet that will stand proudly in the community center;
- Glass bottles found on and in the property during the renovation were saved and used as center pieces during the grand reopening of the center; and
- The original movie projectors, while no longer working, remain steadfastly in their booth – as if they are waiting for someone to come in and start the next picture show for city residents.

The above three examples are a small sampling of the love and respect the city of Dayville has for its history, and for its community center. But those examples pale in comparison to what I found on the walls of the backstage of the community center. For generations, residents of Dayville have been writing on the walls of the backstage—sometimes the writing is a name, sometimes it’s a picture, and sometimes it’s a saying. What struck me the most was something written on the bottom of a wall in 1987:

“How do you find the history of the people who make a town what it is? In Dayville we have an easy way. Most every kid has scratched, painted, or written their name somewhere in the ‘Hall’ or the outside of the school. It is a tribute to the kids that profanity is rare and to the adults (most of whom have their names here also) that they allow it to continue. Thank you for preserving the ‘people history’ of Dayville.”

Restoring Dayville’s community center in 2021 wasn’t about preserving historic architecture. The restoration was about reinforcing and resolidifying Dayville’s history. Dayville’s community center is about its people, it’s about the city’s culture, it’s a testament to the city’s traditions, and it’s a building that reverberates and reflects love.

There are many things about Oregon’s 241 cities that I respect and admire, but Dayville’s community center has given me pause, and provided me a much-needed opportunity to reflect on what makes a city a community, and what makes a community a place people want to protect.



The Dayville Community Hall has hosted weddings, dances, movies, gatherings and more since it was built in 1920.

## Dayville Community Hall

The hall's story began in 1920 when 87 locals bought \$25 shares in the *Hall Company*, a nonprofit organized to build a community hall in Dayville. Lumber was brought in from Flat Creek, 10 miles away, windows were shipped in by mule train and locals volunteered to erect and finish the building.

**RIGHT:** The Community Hall in the 1980s was mostly bare wood. In 1982, the community came together and painted the hall brown.

**ABOVE RIGHT:** The Corbin Arc Lamp Projector turned the Community Hall into a movie theater. These projectors were no longer used after the 1950s.

**BELOW:** The Hall served in many different capacities over the years, as noted as basketball games or graduations or dance recitals.



The first event held in the hall was the 1920 Armistice Day Dance, which continued to be held for several decades. Scots-American dances and silent movies accompanied by piano drew crowds, as did basketball games illuminated by kerosene lamps—spectators assisted by putting out fires when balls hit the lamps. During WWII, the hall housed an ammunition box factory because of its proximity to the *The Dalles Military Road*.



### The Heart of Dayville

*Our Community Hall*

In 2021 the 4,513-sqft community hall got a much needed facelift thanks to \$2m in grant funds and generous donations from past and present Dayville residents. You can find “graffiti” of visitors on the walls from as far back as 1940s along with some as recent as 2021!

**TOP RIGHT:** The Community Hall before construction.

**MIDDLE:** Community members were invited to sign the wall of the Hall early in the construction process to commemorate the renovation.

**NEAR RIGHT:** Like opening a time capsule, “treasures” were found in the wall during construction.

**TOP LEFT & BOTTOM RIGHT CORNER:** After years of fundraising and grant writing, construction began on our Hall!





A display at the Dayville Community Hall explains its history and significance to the community.

# 97<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 5-7 • RIVERHOUSE, BEND



## Register Today for the 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

Join approximately 700 attendees – including mayors, city councilors, city managers, city recorders and city department directors – representing our 241 cities at the 97<sup>th</sup> LOC Annual Conference, October 5-7 at the Riverhouse on the Deschutes in Bend. It's the one event city officials in Oregon cannot afford to miss!

Register by September 12 and save! Register online at [www.orcities.org](http://www.orcities.org).

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## Preliminary Conference Agenda

Visit [www.orcities.org](http://www.orcities.org) for a detailed agenda.

*Agenda subject to change*

### Wednesday, October 5

- 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Trade Show & Continental Breakfast
- 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. People of Color Caucus Business Meeting
- 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. OMA and OCCMA Business Meetings, Workshops and Lunch
- 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Councilors Workshop and Lunch
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Trade Show Lunch (for staff, exhibitors, and tour attendees)
- 12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. Women's Caucus Business Meeting
- 12:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. Local City Tours
- 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Breakout Sessions
- 2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Networking Break
- 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Welcome and Keynote
- 4:45 p.m. – 6:15 p.m. Welcome Reception
- 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. LOC Nominating Committee Meeting

### Thursday, October 6

- 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Breakfast with Trade Show
- 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Small, Medium and Large Cities Networks
- 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. DEI Workshop
- 9:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Local City Tours
- 9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Breakout Sessions
- 10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Networking Break
- 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Breakout Sessions
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch with Trade Show
- 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Local City Tours
- 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Breakout Sessions
- 2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Networking Break
- 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Breakout Sessions
- 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Awards Dinner

### Friday, October 7

- 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Networking Breakfast
- 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Closing Keynote
- 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Break
- 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Annual Membership Meeting



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# 2022 LOC AWARDS

The LOC Awards program recognizes great leaders and great projects in Oregon’s cities. LOC members are invited to nominate elected or appointed leaders who have made outstanding contributions to their city for one of the LOC’s prestigious awards. In addition, there are award categories for progressive and innovative city programs and projects.

The deadline to submit a nomination is **Friday, September 2, 2022.**

## Who is an Outstanding Leader in Your Community?

Do you know of an individual who has made outstanding contributions to your community or to the state of Oregon? Help us recognize their efforts by nominating them for one of the LOC’s **Exceptional Service Awards:**



*Keizer Mayor Cathy Clark was the recipient of the 2019 James C. Richards Memorial Award.*

- The **James C. Richards Memorial Award** recognizes exceptional contributions by elected city officials;
- The **Herman Kehrlı Award** is granted to a city employee who has provided lasting benefits to their community;
- The **Mark O. Hatfield Statesmanship Award** is presented to individuals who have demonstrated exemplary service that has positively affected the citizens of Oregon.
- The **Civic Education Award** acknowledges individuals who have demonstrated an ongoing commitment to nurturing civic responsibility in youth.

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# Honoring excellence in local government

## Show Off Your City's Successful Project or Program

The **City Awards** recognize and encourage excellence, innovation, efficiency and great public service in city government. It's an opportunity for your city to receive the recognition it deserves. Winners can use their success as a positive selling point for their communities and as a boost to the community's spirit. The awards also serve as a forum for sharing the best public service practices in Oregon.

- The **Award for Excellence** recognizes cities that have undertaken progressive and innovative approaches to city operations and providing services to their citizens.
- The **Helen and Alan Berg Good Governance Award** recognizes programs, projects or events which have a specific purpose of reaching out to and/or educating citizens.

Nomination forms and submission instructions, as well as past award winners, can be found on the LOC website at: [www.orcities.org](http://www.orcities.org).

### How food becomes COMPOST

Food scraps and plants are nutrient-rich materials that can be converted into valuable compost. Businesses that start composting are helping to divert waste from landfills, which decreases the production of methane, a harmful greenhouse gas. Commercial composting saves land, water, energy and reduces the need for fossil-fuel fertilizers. It's also more cost-effective—composting costs 20 percent less than conventional garbage service and may reduce your regular garbage pickups. By composting, your business will be doing the right thing and contributing to the health and vitality of the community!



**Love Food<sup>®</sup>  
Not Waste**

Eugene businesses turn food scraps into compost and crops.



**Businesses do it right!**  
A simple start-up guide to Eugene's commercial composting program.

*The city of Eugene won the 2020 Award for Excellence for their "Love Food Not Waste" program, which supports the collection of food waste citywide and enables transforming food scraps into compost.*



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# Chiloquin Councilor Named Open LOC Board Position



The LOC Board of Directors appointed Chiloquin Councilor Robert Cowie to an open position on the board during their June meeting in Central Point. Cowie is filling a voting position vacated when former Metolius Councilor Candy Canga-Picar resigned in May. He was elected to the board last year and had served as a non-voting member.

“Since joining the LOC Board, Councilor Cowie has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to the mission of the LOC,” said LOC President Tanea Browning. “He has consistently and intentionally participated in LOC events and meetings to gain a deeper understanding of the organization and its statewide impact. He has also provided a valuable perspective from the south-central region of the state and will be an incredible asset to the LOC and its 241 member cities as a full voting member of the board of directors.”

Councilor Cowie is the first voting member of the LOC Board from Region 10 since 2008. His term expires December 31, 2024.

## LOC Board of Directors Meets in Central Point

The LOC Board of Directors met in person in Central Point on June 17 and took the following actions:

- Appointed Chiloquin Councilor Robert Cowie to the board for a term expiring on December 31, 2024. Councilor Cowie is filling the position vacated by former Metolius Councilor Candy Canga-Picar;
- Received the FY2020-21 audit report from Brad Bingenheimer of SingerLewak;
- Adopted the FY2022-23 LOC Budget;
- Reviewed the 2022 LOC Legislative Priorities presented by the League’s policy committees.
- Consented to provide amicus support regarding a challenge to the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development’s Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities Rulemaking in the event such support is requested and approved through the LOC’s internal processes;
- Approved a cost of living adjustment and step increase for the interim executive director;
- Authorized President Tanea Browning to enter into an agreement with Strategic Government Resources for the recruitment of the LOC’s next executive director and approved the makeup of the Executive Search Committee;
- Directed staff to obtain an appraisal on the cottages located next to the Local Government Center (LGC) and work with the Oregon School Boards Association to update the Local Government Center Trust; and
- Repealed and replaced the LOC’s Fund Balance Policy.

The next meeting of the LOC Board will be October 4 in Bend.

### Request Printed Copies of the *Local Focus*

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# ELECTED ESSENTIALS WORKSHOPS

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Topics covered include:

- Public records and public meetings
- Ethics
- Roles and responsibilities of councilors, mayors, city managers and staff
- Legal powers & impediments affecting elected officials

**Dates and locations:**

McMinnville	Nov. 29, 2022	OMA New Mayors Workshop (evening)
	Nov. 30, 2022	Elected Essentials
Manzanita	Nov. 29, 2022	OMA New Mayors Workshop (evening)
	Nov. 30, 2022	Elected Essentials
Hillsboro	Nov. 30, 2022	OMA New Mayors Workshop (evening)
	Dec. 1, 2022	Elected Essentials
Depoe Bay	Dec. 1, 2022	Elected Essentials + OMA New Mayors Workshop (evening)
Albany	Dec. 5, 2022	OMA New Mayors Workshop (evening)
	Dec. 6, 2022	Elected Essentials
Klamath Falls	Dec. 6, 2022	Elected Essentials + OMA New Mayors Workshop (evening)
Bandon	Dec. 7, 2022	Elected Essentials + OMA New Mayors Workshop (evening)
Roseburg	Dec. 7, 2022	Elected Essentials + OMA New Mayors Workshop (evening)
Cascade Locks	Dec. 14, 2022	Elected Essentials + OMA New Mayors Workshop (evening)
Metolius	Dec. 15, 2022	Elected Essentials + OMA New Mayors Workshop (evening)
Island City	Jan. 18, 2023	OMA New Mayors Workshop (evening)
	Jan. 19, 2023	Elected Essentials
Keizer	Jan. 26, 2023	Elected Essentials + OMA New Mayors Workshop (evening)
Vale	Jan. 30, 2023	OMA New Mayors Workshop (evening)
	Jan. 31, 2023	Elected Essentials



**New this year!**

The Oregon Mayors Association (OMA) is hosting new mayors trainings in conjunction with Elected Essentials. The purpose of these trainings is to provide those new to the role of mayor with an introduction on what it means to be mayor, along with some tools and tips on how to succeed in the role. Veteran mayors are also encouraged to attend to continue their own education and to share their experiences.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW! REGISTRATION WILL OPEN SEPTEMBER 26.**  
 More information will be added as it becomes available at [www.orcities.org](http://www.orcities.org).

## Nolan Pleše Joins the LOC Lobby Team



Nolan Pleše joined LOC’s lobby team August 1, replacing Jenna Jones, who is now with Metro regional government.

Nolan has taken on a portfolio focused on telecommunications and broadband, and includes energy related issues. He comes to the LOC with several years of legislative experience with elected officials, the majority office, and his most recent work as legislative

director for Representative Pam Marsh. Nolan has an excellent background in telecommunications issues and helped lead the legislative effort to bring more funding resources for broadband investment. He can be reached at [nplese@orcities.org](mailto:nplese@orcities.org).

The LOC’s lobby team is looking forward to being fully staffed as we enter the crunch time in advance of the 2023 session.

## Trevino Named Member Engagement Director

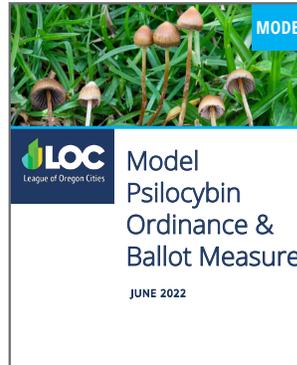
Lisa Trevino has been appointed the LOC’s new Member Engagement Director effective June 9. In this position, she will manage, develop, and oversee business programs, processes, and operations for internal LOC operations, including facilities management, information technology (IT), and database management.

The member engagement director serves as a resource to member cities, coordinating efforts to develop and execute strategic plans that ensure the LOC serves its members through outreach programs, training programs, and networking events.

In addition, as the member engagement director, Ms. Trevino serves as the organization’s diversity and equity coordinator, working with the LOC Board, staff and membership to create, implement and sustain programming through an equity lens that reflects the mission and vision of the LOC.

“We are thrilled that Lisa Trevino will be leading the LOC’s Member and Administrative Services Department,” said Interim Executive Director Patty Mulvihill. “Lisa has been an invaluable LOC employee for six years. She is member-focused, passionate about public service, creative, a firm believer in teamwork, and incredibly knowledgeable about LOC operations and Oregon’s 241 member cities.”

## Measure 109 Model Ordinance and Ballot Measure Available



The LOC has created model ordinances and ballot measure language for cities wishing to submit an ordinance to voters to prohibit the sale of psilocybin or impose a two-year moratorium. The LOC is also sharing an introduction to psilocybin services published by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) for local governments. Measure 109, passed by Oregon voters in 2020, legalized the medical use of psilocybin for

medical purposes and required OHA to produce administrative rules regulating the safe use of the substance. The rule-writing process is ongoing and is being monitored by LOC staff. Additional information will be shared as it becomes available and the LOC will endeavor to ensure cities have a complete understanding of the issue while making their decisions. The model ordinance can be downloaded from the Reference Library on the LOC website: [tinyurl.com/2s3kc54t](http://tinyurl.com/2s3kc54t).

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# October 6-7, 2022 in Ashland



## Oregon Connections Telecommunications Conference

### The theme for this year is: **Navigating the Funding Flood**

The 2022 conference presenters and attendees will explore how Oregon can leverage the current historic & extraordinary funding programs available to meet the broadband needs of its local communities and to close the Digital Divide.

Program topics will include the array of available funding programs, state and local community engagement, broadband technologies, digital equity, digital inclusion, managing expectations, and keys to project success.

for more info visit: [www.oregonconnections.info](http://www.oregonconnections.info)

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## 2022 Keynote Speakers



**Angela Siefer**  
Digital Inclusion Expert



**Russ Elliott**  
CEO, Siskiyou Telephone Company

# City Deadline Calendar

Important statutory deadlines cities need to know

## SEPTEMBER

September 8:

### **November Election: File Statements of Offices, Candidates and Measures with County**

Last day for city elections officer to file with the county clerk a statement of the city offices to be filled, information concerning all candidates, and measures to be voted on.

September 30:

### **Budget: Submit Budget Documents to County Clerk**

By no later than September 30, cities that certify a tax on property must provide a complete copy of the budget document to the clerk of the county in which the taxing district is located. A complete copy includes the sample ballot for each new tax and all budget detail sheets, meeting notices and affidavits of publication, resolutions and ordinances from the budget process.

Note: Although the budget process may begin sooner or later than noted, all the documents referenced above must be submitted to the county clerk by September 30.

### **Reminder: Deposit Construction Tax Revenues**

As soon as practicable after the end of each calendar quarter, cities that impose a construction tax pursuant to ORS 320.192

shall deposit the construction tax revenues collected in the calendar quarter just ended in the general fund of the city.

(ORS 320.195.)

## OCTOBER

October 31:

### **Statewide Transit Tax: Returns and Payments Due**

City employers are required to file a tax return, along with payment of the statewide transit tax withheld from employee wages, to the Oregon Department of Revenue for the third calendar quarter (July 1 to September 30) by October 31. (ORS 320.550; see also OAR 150-320-0520(4).)

### **Reminder: Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) Reports**

City must remit a regular report to PERS Board no later than three business days after the end of the city's pay cycle. (ORS 238.705; OAR 459-070-0100.)

### **Download the full 2022 deadline calendar**

The complete calendar is available on the [LOC website](#) under Resources, then Reference.

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## Upcoming Small Cities Meetings

Held quarterly in 12 regions across the state, the LOC's Small Cities program provides leaders from cities with a population less than 7,500 with an opportunity to meet, network and discuss issues or solutions that are most relevant to small cities in their area. Register for an upcoming meeting on the LOC website: <https://bit.ly/3PbAINl>.

### Upcoming Meetings

**South Valley (Region 7)**

September 8 at 11 a.m., Rogue River

**South Central (Region 10)**

September 9 at 11 a.m., Malin

**Portland Metro (Region 2)**

September 14 at 11 a.m., Estacada

**Columbia Gorge (Region 8)**

September 15 at 11 a.m., Mosier

**Central (Region 9)**

September 16 at 11 a.m., Metolius

**Northeast Oregon (Region 11)**

October 19 at 11 a.m., Stanfield

**Eastern Oregon (Region 12)**

October 20 at 11 a.m., Hines

**Contact:** Lisa Trevino, Operations and Member Engagement Director, [ltrevino@orcities.org](mailto:ltrevino@orcities.org)



## Share Your City's Photos with Us!

*Show off what makes your city great!*

The LOC is once again looking for photos from our member cities to use on the annual wall calendar, in research reports, Local Focus articles, website and more. Photos not only showcase our beautiful cities, but also help us tell the stories of cities.

Photo ideas include:

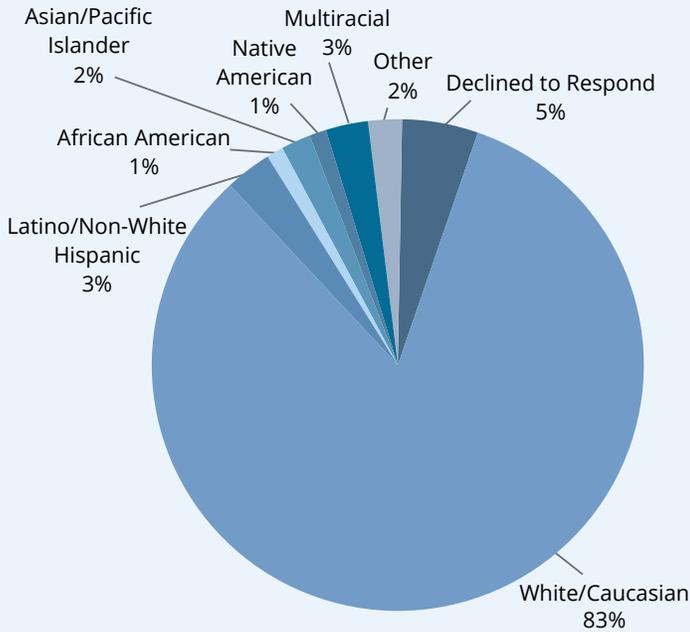
- Economic development projects
- Streetscape enhancements
- Downtowns
- Tourism – events, festivals, farmers markets
- Staff at work – public works, public safety, administration
- Parks
- City halls
- Public art

Find photo submission instructions on the LOC website: [tinyurl.com/city-photos](https://tinyurl.com/city-photos).

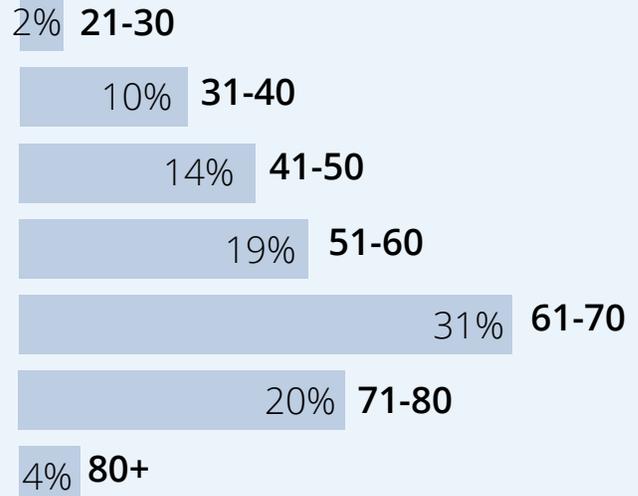
# 2022 CITY ELECTED OFFICIALS DEMOGRAPHICS SURVEY

Every two years, the LOC sends a survey out to its elected officials to better understand the demographic profile of those individuals that represent their communities. View the full report in the Reference Library on the LOC website: [tinyurl.com/electeds-survey](http://tinyurl.com/electeds-survey).

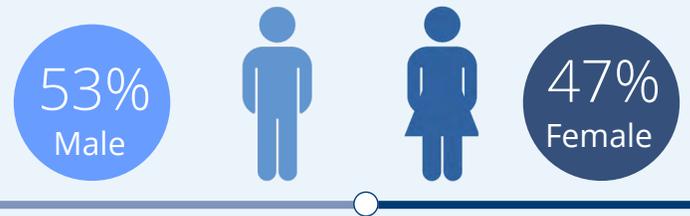
## RACE



## AGE

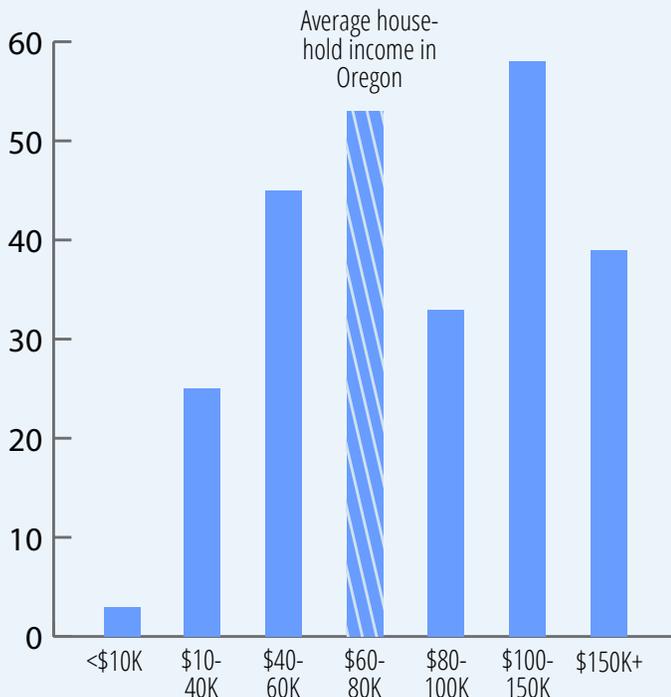


## GENDER



Smaller cities have more women elected officials. In cities with a **population between 1,326 - 3,275**, elected women outnumber men by **19%**.

## INCOME



**47%** of elected officials are retired

**17%** of elected officials are veterans

**67%** of elected officials hold a bachelor's degree or higher



## Free On-Demand DEI Library Now Available

The LOC is pleased to release new materials related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) for the benefit of our members and communities. Among the roles and responsibilities of the LOC's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee is to, "foster a greater understanding and awareness of diversity, equity, and inclusion matters within the LOC organization and its overall membership." The new DEI On-Demand Library serves that goal; it brings together both previously available and new content, including recent LOC training sessions, Oregon Mayors Association (OMA) training sessions, and LOC board trainings, all in one place, complete with closed captions (see infographic for more details). The DEI Committee and staff have worked together to bring this library to the rest of the membership.

Many of the videos provide the opportunity to hear candid conversations among your Oregon peers, with examples of strategies used in communities of all sizes. Many thanks to the Oregon Mayors Association, the Oregon Historical Society, and the National League of Cities for their permission to make this content available. We also again thank the elected officials and staff who offered their time and perspectives on these panel presentations.

View the DEI On-Demand Library on the [LOC website](#) under Training.

### Expand Your Knowledge and Perspectives on Your Own Schedule

The LOC appreciates that elected officials and city staff juggle many demands. We hear from many of you that are curious to grow your understanding of experiences

beyond your own. Staff and the DEI Committee hope that this readily available resource will offer another option to you.

We encourage you to take some time, an hour or so at a time, and incorporate these recordings in your own learning journey. You can listen on your own, agree as a city council, department, or management team to watch a session or two and reflect together, or use the content in any other creative way you see fit. We look forward to hearing how you've done so, and what other resources would be helpful.

### Live, Collaborative Learning Opportunities Coming this Fall

In addition to these online resources, staff are also planning in-person/hybrid DEI training sessions in conjunction with local training partners. Our goal is providing opportunities for meaningful learning that inspire reflection and action at the local level. We aim to do so while being mindful of your budget and your time.

- Members of the DEI Committee, the LOC Women's Caucus, and the Local Government People of Color Caucus are planning DEI-focused sessions for the 97th LOC Annual Conference, October 5-7 in Bend. Visit LOC's website ([www.orcities.org](http://www.orcities.org)) to register and get the most recent hotel information.
- The LOC and Western Oregon University (WOU) are partnering to offer two learning opportunities in the coming months. Class size will be limited for both in order to promote interaction, and all details will be shared in the Friday *LOC Bulletin* newsletter when available:

## Get to Know the DEI Video Library



### How Small Communities are Approaching Equity and Inclusion

Large cities aren't the only ones addressing equity and inclusion. Hear about the approaches taken by our small cities across the state, including leaders' personal paths of reflection and their engagement strategies.



### City Accommodations Training: Understanding Disability and Our Responsibilities as City Officials

Rian Gayle of Western Oregon University shares information crucial for city leaders on the federal and state requirements to provide equitable access to our programs and services. Rian's training offers both historical context and practical guidelines.



### How to Engage Diverse Leaders in Communities

Learn from elected officials and city staff on how they have been able to engage their diverse communities.



### Race in Oregon History: An Historical Perspective

Kerry Tymchuk and Eliza Canty Jones of the Oregon Historical Society share an overview of the ways Oregon's history has been shaped by White supremacist ideology and policies — and resistance to those frameworks — for almost two centuries.



### Better Talk About Race

Leaders must know how to engage better talk about race. In this segment, Sean Palmer, a pastor, speaker, and executive coach, discusses a leader's responsibility to define reality as it relates to race and lead a relevant conversation and response. Includes contemporary guidance on language for racial engagement in organizational and civil life.



### Race, Equity and Leadership (REAL)

NLC's Race, Equity, And Leadership (REAL) initiative serves to strengthen local leaders' knowledge and capacity to eliminate racial disparities, heal racial divisions, and build more equitable communities.

1. A one-day, in-person (6.5 contact hours) Introduction to Justice, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (JEDI) course on October 18, 2022 in Salem. This is exclusively for LOC members.

2. An 8-10 week course (20 contact hours) offered via live Zoom training. This session will be scheduled based on reaching the enrollment threshold and may include participants from other organizations around the state.

- In the meantime, you can learn more about WOU's Professional Development offerings at [wou.edu/prodev](http://wou.edu/prodev). For the programs mentioned above: "the purpose of the training is to provide a space for participants to learn and understand racism and learn strategies of disrupting racist practices within the workplace. Using a structure that includes new-learning modules, action groups, and reflective writing, participants will practice a cycle for naming and understanding their experiences, re-framing the inner dialogue associated with these experiences, and developing skills to re-act with anti-racist behaviors. This training is grounded in anti-racist literature and aims to build intercultural competencies used toward undoing institutional racism and creating equitable and liberated workplaces."

We always appreciate hearing your feedback regarding our programming. For feedback and questions related to DEI at the LOC, as well as training, please contact: Lisa Trevino, Operations & Member Engagement Director – [ltrevino@orcities.org](mailto:ltrevino@orcities.org)

## Are you looking for other courses to take on your own time?

Coursera ([www.coursera.org](http://www.coursera.org)), a popular worldwide online course platform, offers free trainings related to DEI. These offer a mix of instructor-developed videos and texts with some third-party resources such as brief scholarly articles and news clips.

- **Anti-Racism 101, 102, 103** (University of Colorado-Boulder)
- **Foundations of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** (University of Virginia - Darden Business School)
- **Inclusion, Diversity, and Access Essentials** (University of North Texas)

\*\*NOTE: The LOC has not reviewed the entirety of the course content and has no affiliation with Coursera, nor any control over course availability or contents.



# Cyber Crime Targeting Cities and Counties on the Rise

## CIS responds by creating new three-tiered insurance coverage to respond to threat

Earlier in the year, CIS unveiled its new three-tiered cyber coverage program in response to a significant increase of cyberattacks on Oregon's cities and counties. CIS is a government agency (similar to a not for profit) that insures 98% of Oregon cities and 78% of counties.

Small cities and counties are not immune to cyber-attack; rather they are often the target of cyber criminals. CIS' new cyber program initially had three tiers of coverage that featured more strict requirements for tiers two and three. These stricter requirements led some cities and counties to take a wait and see approach on renewing or signing up for the cyber coverage.

Thankfully, CIS was able to reduce its requirements considerably after its London broker came forward with an attractive quote with fewer conditions. In addition, the London broker came through with a compelling program for Tier 3 excess cyber insurance for CIS.

Because of the increased cyber risks to public entities, CIS worked diligently with brokers to find a carrier that would be willing to cover cyber insurance up to \$1 million. But, in the end, CIS found one that would go to \$1.25 million (for Tier 3). Despite warnings that premiums could double, the coverage turned out to be competitive and similar to last year.

The new coverage has many features, including variable pricing based on population—as well as the flexibility to require fewer of the cybersecurity requirements. In addition, CIS members can purchase up to \$1.25 million of cyber coverage, when combining Tier 1, 2 and 3.

CIS has also added a new Cybersecurity Specialist position that can provide cybersecurity services to members, which should help prevent some of the intrusions by cybercriminals.

### Next Steps

For those cities and counties that want to purchase cyber coverage, CIS can add the coverage mid-term in 2022-2023. The following are the minimum requirements for coverage approval:

- Multifactor Authentication for remote access into networks. Remote access to networks includes privileged access to networks or the cloud;
- Three back-up copies, two of which are offsite;
- CIS crime insurance with a minimum of \$250,000 of coverage;
- Training staff about phishing and cybersecurity best practices;
- Adopted cybersecurity policy; and
- Complete the CIS Cyber Application located on the CIS website.

If CIS members have questions about any of these requirements, contact Greg Hardin at [ghardin@cisoregon.org](mailto:ghardin@cisoregon.org) or 503-763-3889. Members can purchase excess cyber at any time during the year by contacting Tena Purdy at [tpurdy@cisoregon.org](mailto:tpurdy@cisoregon.org).

### Quick Facts on Tiers 1, 2 & 3

#### Tier 1

All CIS members can elect to obtain \$50,000 of cyber insurance (Tier 1) with no application required.

#### Tier 2

An additional \$200,000 is available by completing the CIS Cyber Coverage application.

#### Tier 3

Four options are available above the Tier 2 coverage of \$250,000. Members can pick an optional Tier 3 coverage for an additional \$250,000, \$500,000, \$750,000 or \$1 million of coverage. Tier 3 is provided based on an approved CIS Cyber Coverage application.

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## CIS Board Approves 2022-23 Fiscal Year Budget

In June, CIS' \$230.6 million 2022-23 fiscal year budget was unanimously adopted by the CIS Board of Trustees. There are many exciting plans for this year's budget.

### Investing in Preventing Cybercrime

CIS is continuing to invest in helping its members to improve their cybersecurity. CIS' Lloyd's of London broker improved the new Tier 3 excess cyber coverage, which allowed a loosening of cybersecurity restrictions that were unpopular with members.

In addition, CIS budgeted a cybersecurity specialist position to help members protect themselves against cybercrime. And there is some exciting news to share on that front. CIS' former IT Manager Greg Hardin has agreed to move into this new role to support members across Oregon in implementing important cybersecurity best practices.

### CIS to Bring Back Critical Incident Grants

CIS' popular workers' compensation grant program ended when CIS entered into a partnership with SAIF for risk management services. But CIS' Property Casualty Trust Director Dave Nelson has worked closely with SAIF leaders this past year and recently convinced them of the value of reinstating this program—not only for its impact on workers' compensation claims for PTSD, but also for the mental wellbeing of cities' public safety professionals. The grant pays for counseling services for staff impacted by a critical incident such as an officer involved shooting or jail death.

### Strategic Budget Highlights

There are many new initiatives to support CIS members. Below are a few budget highlights that are linked to CIS' strategic goals:

- **Enhance CIS cybersecurity coverage and risk management**
  - In addition to the dedicated Cybersecurity Specialist on staff to assist members, \$75,000 of additional cyber risk consulting has been budgeted.
- **Reduce jail death claims. Facilitate medical care programs in member jails. Facilitate mental health care programs in member jails. Reduce Use of Force claims.**
  - Pilot programs for law enforcement (one concept is to pilot software for reporting, monitoring and auditing use of force) – \$100,000
  - Body camera grants – \$100,000
  - Corrections grants. The focus remains on reducing self-harm by adults in custody, and to expand tele-mental health services – \$100,000
  - Corrections training for line staff – \$23,500

- **Identify and prevent emerging risk issues before claims occur.**
  - Risk management incentives – \$75,000
  - Pilot programs to address emerging issues – \$50,000
  - Swimming pool best practice and onsite assessments – \$40,000
  - Evaluate dams – \$33,000
- **Evaluate providers of disease management and value-based networks to drive down medical costs and increase member engagement.**
  - Propose the carve out of certain surgeries to those who opt for the Surgery
  - Provide a virtual physical therapy option through Hinge Health

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## CIS Promotes Tom BeLusko to Underwriting Director

Tom BeLusko was recently promoted to his new role as CIS' Underwriting Director. Tom is a familiar face to many of CIS members and agents. He has a strong reputation for providing good risk management and insurance services for Oregon's cities. Many members know BeLusko through his more than 20 years at the Assured Partners/WSC Agency. His career has led him to work with many CIS members and agency partners. These strong relationships with members and key partners will serve him very well in his new role.

As CIS Underwriting Director, BeLusko now oversees underwriting, data analytics, marketing, and member communications. He will be getting the word out about what the CIS underwriting department does for members. In addition, he will make sure CIS' coverage agreements are exceptional, so they meet the needs of cities and counties.

In his new role, BeLusko will work closely with re-insurers and other insurance carriers to provide the limits and coverages the CIS trust needs. He will also help support the CIS underwriting team to review and price exposure to protect the overall risk exposure of the CIS Property/Casualty Trust, while facilitating the necessary operations of the CIS membership.

"Over the years some of my proudest moments in the insurance industry have been the honor of employing quality people, offering advancement of those employees, and watching success bloom," BeLusko said. "At CIS there are serious people performing serious work and that same opportunity exists to dig into our service-mission to help our members protect their interests and those of their communities."

BeLusko has a solid reputation for adeptly serving public entities across the state.

"I had great pride in servicing Oregon's public entities," he said. "From cities, counties, fire districts, school districts, and other special districts, the ability to be the very special, trusted, and reliable resource to all things insurance and risk management was a remarkable opportunity for me. To help support and protect the programs and efforts of local government is what made me want to continue the evolution of my career at CIS. I look forward to serving our members—as well as working with our dedicated agents—in this new capacity."

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## CIS Benefits Announces Two New Innovative Programs: Hinge Health and SurgeryPlus

CIS has been working hard to enhance its already outstanding employee benefits program. It's been well known for years—based on claims data—that CIS Benefits members' employees struggle with musculoskeletal issues. These chronic issues can lead to frustration as employees search for some type of relief. Historically, musculoskeletal conditions have been one of the drivers of CIS' top claims.

For those employees who have a Regence plan through CIS Benefits, they are adding Hinge Health and SurgeryPlus. Both programs give city employees more tools to recover from their injuries or chronic issues. For example, if an issue can't be resolved through physical therapy through Hinge Health, CIS now has a SurgeryPlus program to help them to choose the highest quality surgeon, with the best outcomes in the industry.

This should help keep rates stable for members covered through CIS Benefits. It will also give city employees better tools to help them deal with their musculoskeletal issues—and save money (if they go through SurgeryPlus for their needed surgeries).

SurgeryPlus is voluntary so city employees can use the new program or continue to go through the Regence network for their surgeries. SurgeryPlus gives them one more option.

### Hinge Health for Back and Joint Pain Relief

With the nicer weather comes summer activities, which can lead to sore joints and even back pain. Thankfully, CIS Benefits brings cities Hinge Health (starting Aug. 1, 2022), where city employees can access a digital exercise therapy program that supports back and joint health.

If cities have CIS Benefits and are enrolled in a CIS medical plan administered by Regence, Hinge Health can help treat back and joint pain—as well as aid in their recovery from injuries, prepare them for surgery, and help them stay healthy and pain free.

The programs from Hinge Health are available to CIS members enrolled in a CIS medical plan administered by Regence and their enrolled dependents over 18 years of age.

In addition, Hinge Health allows them to complete their customized care plan anywhere, any time. They'll have access to a personal health coach, convenient exercise therapy, and education articles that will help them understand their condition and treatment options.

Start by visiting [hingehealth.com/CISOREGON](https://hingehealth.com/CISOREGON). For questions, please call 855-902-2777 or email [hello@hingehealth.com](mailto:hello@hingehealth.com).

### SurgeryPlus Can Save City Employees Money, Starts Jan. 1, 2023

City employees—who are CIS Benefits members and enrolled in a CIS medical plan administered by Regence—will soon have access to a new program that can save them money when planning for a non-emergency surgery. The new program is called SurgeryPlus and it can provide employees with access to top-quality, affordable care for more than 1,500 surgical procedures. Some of the covered procedure categories include (but are not limited to) orthopedics, spine, general surgery, gynecology, ear nose, throat, GI, bariatric, and cardiac.

When city employees use SurgeryPlus, they may be able to save money through reduced financial responsibility.

If they're enrolled in a Copay or HDHP with HRA plan, the deductible and coinsurance are waived—making their procedure through SurgeryPlus free.

If the employee is enrolled in a HDHP with HSA plan, for procedures with SurgeryPlus there is no coinsurance, and the deductible is reduced to \$1,500/\$3,000 (individual/family coverage).

SurgeryPlus has a nationwide network of over 400 hospitals and 3,000 surgeons to ensure the right care, from the right provider in the right place. The network is built with provider quality and surgical outcomes as the top priority.

If an employee thinks they need surgery, SurgeryPlus' dedicated team of Care Advocates provides a personalized experience, guiding them through the entire process. They'll help the employee find a surgeon that meets the rigorous SurgeryPlus credentialing standards. With an understanding of their care needs and preferences, the SurgeryPlus team will hand-select three surgeons for them to evaluate and choose from. Plus, they'll ensure they have access to the best information as they make decisions about their care. SurgeryPlus will also coordinate logistics, and any necessary travel arrangements.

As a voluntary program, CIS Benefits member employees can use SurgeryPlus, or continue to go through the Regence network for their surgeries. SurgeryPlus has been added to CIS Benefits to give city employees another choice when they are planning for a non-emergency surgery.

# Oregon's Homeless Crisis

## Partnerships Lead to Unique Strategies

In Keizer, many people experiencing chronic homelessness have needs such as addiction services and are well-known to both code enforcement and law enforcement. However, there is a significant population of young adults who are the “unseen” homeless population.

“McNary High School has an astonishing population of students who are homeless or housing insecure,” said Mayor Cathy Clark. “We don’t generally see them on the streets, but sometimes we do.”

Any visitor to Seaside will have seen panhandlers near the Safeway store. In the eastern Oregon cities of Hermiston and Umatilla, a group of illegal RV campers and highway panhandlers are longtime residents of the region.

Homelessness looks different in each of these diverse communities and people—from those in need of housing, to residents who are already housed and visitors to those cities—experience it in different ways, depending on size, geographic location and other factors.

While the issue of homelessness is a statewide problem that can often seem overwhelming and unsolvable, Oregon cities and counties have initiated a range of strategies to address it and provide a network of resources and support services to aid people without housing.

And, just as homelessness looks different across the state, so do the strategies for solving it. One thing that each region has in common, however, is that teamwork, partnerships and collaboration are essential to success.

### Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance Targets Youth, Rural Homelessness

Mayor Clark noted that with a few exceptions that included a fugitive from New York who had created a “well-hidden and well-organized” camp and was apprehended, Keizer’s homeless population are not criminals, despite what many may think.

“Some have had run-ins with the law, but they tend to be pretty minor offenses,” she said. “They are generally not what we consider to be felons. These are people who are trying, in their own way, to navigate life and we’re trying to help them realize there is a better way.”

It has been a challenge, and Clark said that while the city has tried to be proactive in addressing the needs of its homeless and housing insecure population, like all their neighbors, they lacked the necessary resources for decades.

“We were under-resourced and undereducated, and we started from less than scratch when we started this six years ago,” she said. “But we had leaders who said, ‘We are doing this and it’s not working, and we need to look at better ways to get this done.’”

Keizer collaborated with the city of Salem and Marion and Polk counties to launch the Mid-Willamette Homeless Initiative. A task force and eight subcommittees worked during 2016-17 on a strategic plan. Task force members included business and community leaders with expertise in social services, housing, public safety and business.



The initiative’s strategic plan addressed issues such as: lack of affordable housing; best practices for reducing chronic homelessness; specialized service for veterans, seniors, victims of domestic violence, and runaway and homeless youth; and coordination of available support and education services. Contributing factors such as mental illness, addiction, lack of education and the need for transportation were also addressed.

In 2017, five local governments—Independence, Keizer, Marion County, Monmouth and Salem—entered into an intergovernmental agreement, formed a steering committee, and pooled their funds to hire a staff person who advanced the Mid-Willamette Homeless Initiative’s work. In 2019, the steering committee voted to create a new continuum of care (CoC) that was a more inclusive model than the previous one that ended in 2011.



“We had leaders who said, ‘We are doing this and it’s not working, and we need to look at better ways to get this done.’”

*Keizer Mayor Cathy Clark*





Above: DJ Vincent and his Church at the Park team served a beautiful Thanksgiving dinner and invited people experiencing homelessness to come and build community and relationships.

Right: A peek inside one of the Compact Liveables – portable, durable units designed by Russ Monk, of High Impact Technologies, and are built in West Salem at Edomo USA. The units have room for one or two people to rest and sleep securely and comfortably.



In December 2019, the new CoC was approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and in 2020, the Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance was born.

Part of the initiative is a focus on the needs of homeless youth and young adults, and last year the alliance received a \$3.7 million grant through HUD's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program. In addition to addressing the specialized needs of youth and young adults in the community, Clark said, it is a "huge prevention piece," because 70% of people experiencing chronic homelessness were homeless as youth.

Clark credited Keizer's progress to partnering, seeking advice, and utilizing best practices through the alliance to ensure the work of its community partners is trauma-informed and provides people experiencing homelessness with the tools they need to succeed.

"When agencies come to Keizer with a project to provide facilities, we work hard to get to yes," she said, noting Simonka Place (Union Gospel Mission) and St. Monica's (Catholic Community Services) are two such places that call Keizer home. The Keizer Chamber of Commerce Network of Women also started and support the Keizer Klosets, which are resource rooms in local schools so children and youth can self-advocate with dignity for essentials they need, including clothing and hygiene supplies.

Progress so far includes the regional development of micro-shelter communities, which have success rates of more than 50% for people not returning to the streets, compared to only 5% for traditional congregate shelters. Clark said the need for transitional housing is significant, and the city will continue to work with

the city of Salem and other partners to build and staff it to help people move to the next level before they move out on their own.

In addition, the Alliance will expand the rural component of its homelessness initiative and is collaborating with Polk County, which received a \$1 million state grant to stand up a coordinated response to homelessness and address the needs and service delivery for rural areas. (See accompanying article about HB 4123.) Data and planning from that effort will be critical to helping Keizer and its rural neighbors broaden their work, Mayor Clark said.

She advised other city and county leaders to work with CoCs and Coordinated Care Organizations and to become part of the Oregon Housing and Community Services department's Homeless Management Information System.

"That is going to inform your work tremendously," Clark noted. "It's going to show your gaps, your successes and where you need to expand. That data is humanizing and priceless."

Clark emphasized the importance of adhering to a strategic plan because the needs associated with homelessness are so complex, and it's essential to be thoughtful, methodical and continue to collect data. She also recommended establishing a Collaborative Committee that is open to all community members.

"Find someone who is passionate about the work, link arms and work together to build a community, a network that is more than a safety net. It's a fabric that wraps around people and is sustainable, and we have to be in it for the long haul," she said.

*(continued on page 28)*



RVs and other vehicles were parking overnight on Necanicum Drive in Seaside before the city installed signs prohibiting it (shown at left). The city council in April voted to approve an ordinance that requires temporary permits of up to three weeks, vehicles must be registered and camping is allowed from 4 p.m. to 10 a.m.

### Seaside Approves Ordinance to Manage Illegal Camping

In tourism-reliant Seaside, people experiencing homelessness are often seen panhandling in high-visibility spots near U.S. Highway 101 and the local Safeway where most visitors shop. City Councilor Tita Montero said that a few people told her they live in

Astoria and spend a dollar to ride the bus to Seaside because the panhandling is better.

And, while there are rumors that Portland buys bus tickets to send people experiencing homelessness to Seaside and other cities, Montero knows otherwise.

“In my dealings with some of the homeless people, the great majority of them have lived in Seaside for years,” she said. “They were housed and then lost their housing. Everybody knows a couple of men who grew up in Seaside and are obviously mentally compromised. Every one of these people is on disability, and many of them have had jobs in the county in the past.”

Seaside had several distinct homeless camps, one of them near Mill Ponds, which was not as visible to tourists but still impacted residents who wanted to walk their dogs and enjoy the scenery. The site was popular with tent campers. “One person was so industrious as to have actually built a very nice little cottage out of pallets and kept it nice and even had raised garden beds,” Montero said.

Adding to the challenge of keeping the site clean, though, was the proximity of a recycling area where housed city residents throw away old furniture and other belongings, despite the city forbidding it. “When you have nothing, something is better than nothing, so the unhoused residents would go into that recycling area and see what had been thrown away by housed residents and take it to their camp,” Montero said, adding one person had built

a shelter with a wall of old microwaves. Public works employees were charged with removing those structures.

Another site popular with homeless people in campers, RVs and other vehicles is on Necanicum Drive, a piece of city-owned land that the public works department used for staging projects. The city discouraged overnight parking with signs prohibiting it, so most of the vehicle campers moved to a nearby space and, for the most part, self-managed it.

“They would chase off anybody they knew was a drug dealer or doing drugs,” Montero said. “They were all against the drugs and alcohol. One reason they went to Necanicum was because they didn’t want to be by the Mill Ponds area, where some of the people in tents were doing drugs.”

She added that, ultimately, the early “settlers” could not control others with drug, alcohol or trash problems from moving onto the site.

Montero believes the city made a mistake by ignoring the growing Necanicum parking site instead of engaging with the people who lived there and enforcing rules. “The reason the city didn’t do that was on the advice that to engage would be like giving the seal of approval, and that the housed neighbors would think we were encouraging or blessing the situation,” she said. “Given that the site was basically ignored, other RVs started moving in.”

During its 2021 goals setting session, the Seaside City Council was determined to develop a strategic plan, and Montero chose to be the champion for the city’s goal on homelessness. She led five forums that started in May of that year and formed a task force that held six meetings of at least 90 minutes each. Though initiatives were developed and adopted by the city council the following November, the COVID-19 pandemic halted progress in implementing them.

In the meantime, the overnight parking by people experiencing homelessness ramped up again and neighboring residents became more vocal. In response, the city council in April voted to approve an ordinance that requires temporary permits of up to three weeks, vehicles must be registered and camping is allowed from 4 p.m. to 10 a.m. Instead of having to move in and out of camp every day, campers are allowed to stay five to six days of the week and can move in and out once or twice.



"We have no homeless shelters, there are county-wide services but they are not aimed at Seaside, and [the housing authority] has housing in Seaside but it's full.  
*Seaside Councilor Tita Montero*

Montero said that people experiencing homelessness who are trying to adhere to the ordinance have had to deal with the rising cost of gas, which added to their financial burden, and it takes a minimum of two weeks for outreach services to help someone fill out an intake form to apply for housing. Even then, they are not able to get into affordable or subsidized housing because there is nothing available.

"At this point, there is no other place for people to go unless they move away," she said. "Because now that the area is cleaned up, many people in town think the problem has been solved and gone away. Yes, we've cleaned up that block, but have we been successful, in a humane manner, in dealing with homelessness in our city? We have no homeless shelters, there are county-wide services but they are not aimed at Seaside, and NOHA (Northwest Oregon Housing Authority) has housing in Seaside but it's full."

Montero said that while the Housing First theory, a homeless assistance approach that prioritizes providing permanent housing, didn't sink in for her a few years ago, it certainly does now.

"If we don't have some place for people to actually stay safe in a routine manner without chasing around, we're not going to be able to take care of any of the other problems such as drugs, alcohol or disability," she said.

In the meantime, Montero would like Seaside to explore transitional alternatives such as pallet housing. In the pallet village in Everett, Wash., 64-square-foot shelters include beds with storage underneath, personal climate control, and electrical outlets to power personal devices. Lockable doors offer a secure, safe environment. Bathrooms and outdoor community spaces are available, and residents have access to showers, a laundry room and a cafeteria inside the nearby Everett Gospel Mission.

### Forest Grove to Test Safe Camping Pilot Encampment

As Forest Grove began developing its strategies to help residents experiencing homelessness, City Councilor Kristy Kottkey looked to her connections with other councilors and mayors who are part of the LOC's Women's Caucus.

"The coolest part of this story is that because of that, I was able to key into what Tita Montero was working on in Seaside," Kottkey said. "Our subcommittee then watched the Seaside meeting and listened to the community and the process, and that actually informed how we approached this differently. Instead of bringing a resolution to council and then asking for community input, we flipped the script and brought a concept plan to the community for feedback. Like we learned from Seaside, that is informing our process as we work on the solution together."

Kottkey added that Montero has been direct about the work that still needs to be done in Seaside, and its city council has  
*(continued on page 30)*

## Small Deposit, Big Return

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## OREGON'S HOMELESS CRISIS

Still, more needed to be done. After a year of the public listening and work sessions, which were recorded and posted on the city's website, the result was a list of community questions and responses from the city. The meetings also highlighted action steps and how Forest Grove can continue to address homelessness moving forward.

Among the progress made so far, the city received grant funding from Metro for the Forest Grove Foundation to continue on-the-ground outreach in which teams connect daily with people living outside with the goal of helping them secure safe, permanent housing.

Forest Grove strengthened its relationship with Washington County, which manages the Highway 47 camp and has conducted a massive cleanup effort and regular checks for cleanliness and safety. County teams, Forest Grove Foundation outreach teams, the city's police department and the Washington County Sheriff's Department collaborate to manage the camp.

A community-wide town hall held in June 2021 allowed city leaders to share the collaboration and actions being taken by the county, city and nonprofits concerning homelessness. City officials and staff attend a weekly meeting of the Washington County Anti-Poverty Task Force, which brings together city, county, state and local nonprofits to work on actionable items.

Washington County received about \$50 million in funding from Metro and is partnering with local communities to implement its encampment plan pilot, case worker capacity-building, and housing investments that are strengthening the system.

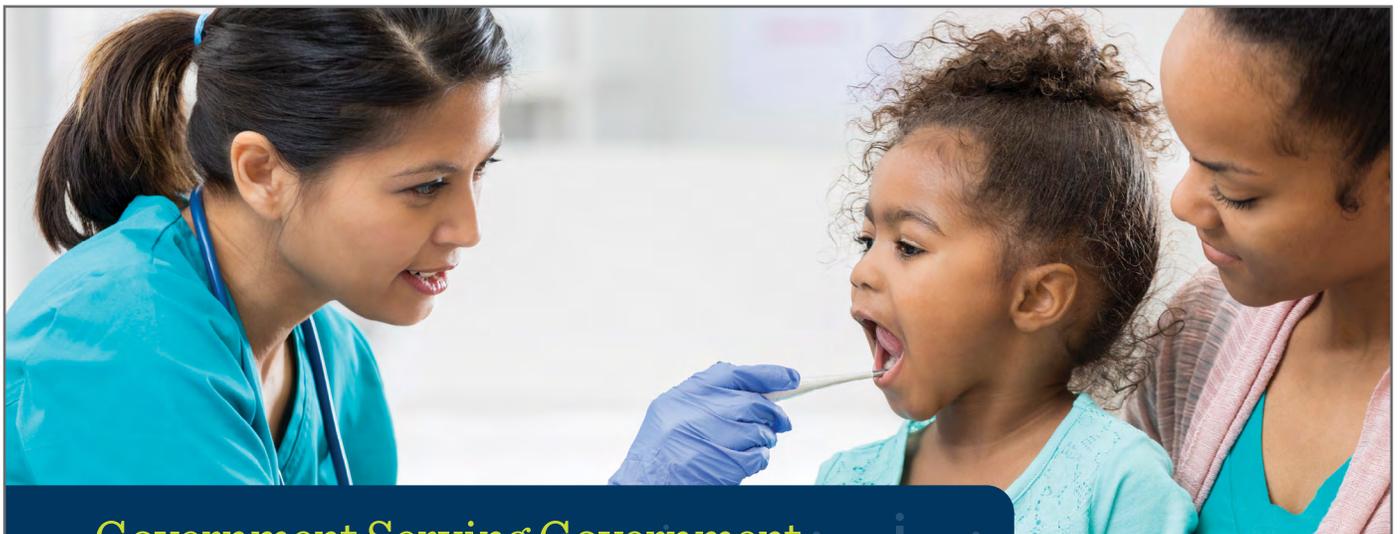
In addition, the Forest Grove City Council created a subcommittee to specifically look at policy around encampments within the



A Forest Grove campsite was cleaned up in partnership with the nonprofit Forest Grove Foundation and Rotary, working together with the city's parks department and the campers themselves. The campers did a lot of prep work to get ready for the cleanup day.

connected with what Seaside is doing," she said. "It is the relationships and the trust that are making us all be better councilors, leaders and community members."

When Forest Grove launched a series of public listening and work sessions in February 2021, it had an estimated 60-100 people living outside, most in a camp along Highway 47. Multiple nonprofits such as the Forest Grove Foundation, Open Door and the Salvation Army already had workers doing outreach. And, despite public perception, most of the campers welcomed the help to move to transitional housing. Many had already been connected to housing.



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Above: Gresham Homeless Service Specialist Willie Shaw (left) with two clients he housed in their own apartment through Move in Multnomah. Right: The Gresham Homeless Services team performs outreach in the city.



city. The group, composed of two city councilors, the mayor, the city manager and the police chief, opens its meetings to the public.

More recently, the Forest Grove City Council is considering creating campsites on B Street designated for residents experiencing homelessness. The “safe camping pilot encampment” would have up to eight campsites, which would be managed by the government.

Along with developing trails and other recreational spaces, the city will work with nonprofits and Washington County to provide unhoused people access to support services, shelter and housing options. Existing encampments will be asked to relocate and may move to an area on the property out of the floodplain or relocate to shelters or housing. The clean-up effort will be funded by county and Metro money, with a small portion paid by the city using one-time federal American Rescue Plan Act funding.

In 2020, voters passed a Metro bond that required a tax on earners making more than \$125,000 and businesses with gross receipts greater than \$5 million. This will provide approximately \$60 to \$70 million dollars per year over the next 10 years for Washington County. That money is funding case workers, nonprofit outreach teams, housing advocates, and support services for alternative sheltering while much-needed housing is being built.

In addition to the county’s portion of the Metro bond, the city council approved a grant from the Metro Community Enhancement Program to the Forest Grove Foundation for \$120,000 over the course of three years to support outreach with the goal of transitioning people to housing.

Councilor Kottkey credited City Manager Jesse Vanderzanden with having the vision and flexibility to take all of these pieces, listen to stakeholders and find a way forward for the city that prioritizes people and partnerships.

“He has a deep understanding of how all of our different jurisdictions work together and has built relationships, which has helped us all collaborate,” she said. Best of all, he is open to creative

solutions and always welcoming of any idea. I would say without Jesse’s leadership and expertise, my ideas would not have had a landing space. But obviously, we need all these pieces - the city manager, the LOC partnerships, the council relationships, the voices of the community—to move ahead. Without Jesse, none of our ideas would have moved forward into actions.”

### Gresham Finds Success Through Increased Homeless Services Staffing

Homeless camps along Gresham’s Springwater Corridor trail, along with coordinated efforts to clean them up, are well documented over the years, and by 2016 the city saw an escalation in unhoused people camping in parks and other open spaces. The number of people living in RVs along Gresham’s border with Portland was growing.

“Over time, and still today, our main impacts are in our open spaces and people living in vehicles and RVs on streets,” said Gresham Homeless Services Manager Jessica Harper.

*(continued on page 32)*



“This is really tough work and you have to find people who are willing to work hard and do it well.”  
*Gresham Homeless Services Manager Jessica Harper*

In 2016, the city received funding from Multnomah County's Joint Office of Homeless Services that made possible the hiring of one homeless service specialist. With additional funding from the county, Gresham in 2018 hired a second homeless service specialist and money from last year's American Rescue Plan Act paid for a third.

"It really comes down to getting the right staff and we've been purposeful and fortunate in that regard," Harper said. "We have people on our team who have been homeless themselves and others who have been working in social services for 10 to 20 years. This is really tough work and you have to find people who are willing to work hard and do it well."

With the team of homeless service specialists, Gresham Homeless Services was able to focus specifically on providing outreach and resources to relocate people from the Springwater Corridor to transitional housing. The team also supports the city's Code Compliance department on outreach to RV campers by offering housing and services to people living in vehicles. Gresham implemented a code specifically to establish an RV parking permit program requiring a free permit to park an RV on the public right of way. The permits are issued to the utility account holder where the RV is parked and limited to 72 hours.

"The collaboration between Code Compliance and Homeless Services allows the city to enforce our codes about unpermitted camps in public spaces and unpermitted parking," Harper said. "We always start with Homeless Services offering help and then follow up with a consistent explanation of the city's codes. People are meeting with our social services workers first and not a police officer, and that makes a huge difference."

While Gresham's homeless population is pretty diverse, the majority who are experiencing chronic homelessness are 40-60 years old and mostly male. About one-half are white, and the other half made up of people of color. Recently, Gresham began focusing more on its border with Portland and is discovering a more diverse range of people who are not as visible because they are living in vehicles or sleeping on someone's couch, Harper said.

She emphasized that Gresham's collaboration with Multnomah County through the Joint Office of Homeless Services has been essential to its success. "We simply wouldn't have a program if it weren't for Multnomah County."

When Gresham applied to Multnomah County for annual grant funding, the city was required to establish metrics that show the results achieved by Homeless Services and its staff.

"In general, they let us run our program how we need to based on our community's needs and circumstances," Harper said. "Gresham is different from Portland and even Troutdale, so we really appreciate that flexibility."

Gresham's Homeless Services is now engaged with Move In Multnomah, a new effort to help nonprofits find landlords who are willing to rent to people coming out of homelessness with Multnomah County paying their rent for a year. Gresham worked with Cultivate Initiatives to house 10 people in June, and Harper



The city of Cottage Grove purchased a mobile shower in 2020 and offers free showers through Community Sharing.

expected that number to rise to nearly 20 by the end of July.

"It grows the relationship with the nonprofit and shows our clients that when we say, 'We want to get you into an apartment,' we're willing to do the legwork to make that happen," she said, adding participants must have a job and the year of free rent allows them to save money for future expenses.

Harper said that as Homeless Services continues to expand to fit the growing needs of Gresham's homeless population, the city has gained momentum in enforcing its codes and getting people into housing and serves as a model.

"I do think this approach makes a lot of sense and can be replicated and scaled up or down to fit other communities. It's common sense and the way we think of it is we're holding people accountable with compassion," she said. "We're proud of what we've done, and we want to just keep the momentum moving forward."

## Pandemic Ushers in Cottage Grove's Use of Pallet Shelters

From his office in Cottage Grove City Hall, City Manager Richard Meyers can see some of the city's residents who are now homeless. One of them is a disabled man on social security who typically lives in the yard at his mother's house, but she spends the winters in Arizona, and he has to find another place to stay.

Another young man well known to city staff typically sleeps in lit areas and in front of businesses because he's been beat up so many times.

"He does have some drug problems and that's to mask some other mental health problems," Meyers said. "Sometimes he does something in the community, and we arrest him and put him in our jail and he's able to clean up. Then he volunteers to help out."

Meyers added that as part of this volunteer work, the man often mows grass for the city.

Most of Cottage Grove's homeless population consists of long-time residents, some of whom have been without secure housing for as long as 10 years. Others have lived in RVs and were kicked out when the property was sold or rented out.

"That's one of the saddest pieces of the story is the myth that they come to Oregon because it's lenient here or the drug rules are soft, but everyone here is from here," he said. "Many have lost their jobs or inflation has priced them out of their homes."

Meyers said these experiences weigh heavy as city leaders and staff search for solutions to help people who had to move into parks, under bridges and other public spaces when COVID-19 forced the closure of temporary housing in the community center, and the library's parking lot closed for a roof repair.

It puts pressure on the city's already-limited budget when crews must install portable toilets and clean up debris at homeless camping sites. "We've also had some damage from people trying to get into restrooms or other facilities that are closed after hours," he said.

Cottage Grove continues to strive for solutions. Since December, it has housed people in two buildings with staff providing monitoring and supervision and essentially serving as full-time case managers.

Through the Beds for Freezing Nights program, churches provided space for congregate sheltering and volunteers staffed it. Meyers said that while the temporary solution was helpful, it took a toll on volunteers and staff.

"The common myth is that if we do this people from Eugene would be coming down, and we actually only had two people from Eugene," he said. "It was a success, but it put such a huge burden on the staff and volunteers who were running things. It was grinding and there were some nights when we didn't know if we could open it because we didn't have enough volunteers."

When the pandemic made the congregate sheltering unsafe, the city partnered with Community Sharing and volunteers to operate a warming shelter using 17 pallet shelter cabins. From December 2021 through the following March, the warming shelter volunteers provided 413 shelter beds that represented 78 unique individuals, and the warming shelters were filled three times over that period.

Cottage Grove also set up a canopy divided into eight 10x10 spaces that included a tent, and a bin for storage of personal belongings within the fenced space.

Meyers said staff and volunteers initially were concerned about a proposed fence around the shelter area that was intended to provide additional security. "We were concerned that they would feel like they were being treated like animals by being penned in, but it made a huge difference in their sense of security," he said.

The city also purchased a mobile shower at the beginning of the pandemic and offers free showers through Community Sharing. In March, 62 people used the shower, up from 14 in July 2021.

In addition, Cottage Grove has helped many of its residents who are experiencing homelessness get in touch with family members and access services. Still, the city has little available housing. Two people staying in the shelter had jobs, and one had been on a waiting list for an apartment for a year and a half.

*(continued on page 34)*



## A Look Ahead to 2023

*By Ariel Nelson, LOC Lobbyist*

Cities across Oregon are facing a growing unhoused crisis. Many jurisdictions have developed new programs, expanded service efforts, built regional partnerships, and are making substantial investments of general fund and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to respond to the unhoused

emergency. Yet, this humanitarian crisis exceeds any individual community's capacity. With active projects, programs, and partnerships in place in many cities in Oregon, the state has an opportunity to build upon these efforts to make an immediate and impactful difference.

The Oregon Legislature has made significant investments in recent sessions toward homeless services and new shelter, but those resources have all been one-time funding. Oregon lacks a coordinated investment in shelter and homeless services to connect the dots on the ground and provide sustained operational funding to local governments and shelter and service providers. Funding would continue the recent state investments in navigation centers and shelters, Project Turnkey, direct city funding (HB 4052, 2022), the HB 4123 city-county pilots (2022) and guidance from the HB 2100 Taskforce on Homelessness and Racial Disparities.

The LOC Community Development Policy Committee elevated a policy priority to the LOC ballot to seek funding to support coordinated, local responses to addressing homelessness, including supporting the Oregon Mayors Association and its 25 mayor Homeless Taskforce that is meeting throughout the summer to build a statewide funding proposal. "Local Funding to Address Homelessness" received strong support from the LOC membership and was confirmed as part of the LOC key legislative priorities by the LOC Board during their August 26 meeting. While homelessness impacts our entire state, the symptoms and solutions look different between urban and rural communities and vary based on community size, geography, and available service providers. With adequate, ongoing funding, cities are well positioned to address homelessness in close coordination with counties, service provider partners, culturally specific organizations, and state and federal systems to build on Oregon's developing homeless response strategy, including critical connections to permanent supportive housing.



"We have partnerships with our behavioral health provider, and they come out almost every day and provide supportive services to clients experiencing behavioral health issues."

*Mid-Columbia Community Action Council Executive Director Kenny LaPoint*

Another man living in a park was in an auto accident, lost his job and apartment as a result, and was waiting to receive a settlement. The city helped him access legal resources, but even when the settlement arrives it won't be enough to afford an apartment.

"We have no housing or rentals, or they are so expensive, and the vacancy rate is zero," Meyers said. "That's a real dilemma and something needs to be done."

He noted that Mayor Jeff Gowing bought a house near the community center where one of the city's primary homeless camps was located. The mayor took note of how the residents there kept things clean, and one man had appointed himself the overseer to ensure it remained peaceful.

Still, housed residents complained, and the camp was cleaned up in June. While syringes from drug use left behind are a concern in most Oregon cities, cleanup crews found only one.

"Public members have complained that taxpayers need to be protected and our mayor has pointed out that people experiencing homelessness are citizens as well," Meyers said. "Some

people won't go to the library or the community center because of 'those people.' What do you mean 'those people?' They live in our community."

### **MCCAC Partnership Helps Serve Homeless in The Dalles, Hood River**

The Dalles began serving its homeless population with a half dozen small pallet shelters and a volunteer overseeing the site. It had portable toilets but no running water. The city had scarce resources, financial or otherwise, and lacked a comprehensive plan to address the issue long term.

When Kenny LaPoint became executive director of the Mid-Columbia Community Action Council (MCCAC) in late 2020, he, his board of directors and city leaders knew a nonprofit organization needed to take over that work.

Starting with the shelter, LaPoint requested sanitation sites and ongoing financial support from the city. The city added sewer and water lines, and COVID relief funds paid



## **LOC's Online Homeless Solutions Resource is a Hub of Information for Cities**

In January, LOC launched its online Homeless Solutions Resource for cities. This online guide aims to help cities better understand homelessness in their communities and support local implementation of HB 3115 ahead of the July 2023 deadline.

The online guide includes resources on how to lead productive community conversations, interpret data, and catalogue best practices and local shelter and housing services program examples from around the state.

The LOC will continue to update and expand its website to feature additional local and national programs and examples. City leaders and partners are encouraged to review the new online resource and suggest additional content, links and resources.

View the Homeless Solutions Resource at:

[www.orcities.org/resources/reference/homeless-solutions](http://www.orcities.org/resources/reference/homeless-solutions)

for a restroom and shower trailer that is ADA compliant and stationed on the shelter site. It also now offers 34 beds.

In order to hire a team to run the shelter, the MCCAC applied for a \$1.8 million federal Emergency Solutions Grant. It received \$3.1 million as the top scoring applicant, allowing it to hire staff for shelter sites in both The Dalles and Hood River and keep them open year-round. The MCCAC also established a coalition of culturally specific organizations to ensure it meets the needs of Native and Latinx community members.

“The city has been super supportive of the work we’ve been doing,” LaPoint said. “We have a really good operations structure there and have very few community issues about how we’re doing things. We believe the health of the community has improved because of the shelter.”

One of the immediate goals for the shelter was to mitigate the impacts of COVID among those experiencing homelessness. Up until late June of 2022, there was not a single positive COVID test, and the two people who tested positive then were moved to a hotel. The local federally qualified health center has a medical RV called La Clinica, and the mobile medical unit visits the shelter each Tuesday to provide care for clients and offer COVID and other vaccination clinics on a regular basis.

“We also have partnerships with our behavioral health provider, and they come out almost every day and provide supportive services to clients experiencing behavioral health issues,” LaPoint said, adding the implementation of robust wraparound services and housing case management had resulted in MCCAC placing 40 people into permanent housing by late June.

He noted that MCCAC and its partner cities are leveraging several sources of funding to provide resources to people. These include \$3 million in funding awarded by the Oregon Legislature during its full session in 2021 and its short session this year. These funds will be used to build a 14,000-square-foot navigation



Rendering of a 14,000-square-foot navigation center in The Dalles that will house multiple services and serve as a new home for the city's shelter.

center in The Dalles that will house multiple services and serve as a new home for the city's shelter.

“We’re trying to create an easier point of access for people so they’re not having to run all around to different agencies which, in a rural area, is not only challenging from a transportation point of view but also for people who are trying to navigate a complex system,” LaPoint said.

The Dalles hopes to open the navigation center in June 2023. LaPoint said broad community support has buoyed the project, among them the donation of 2.6 acres for the project, \$500,000 from the city, and \$400,000 from Wasco County.

Other strategic initiatives within The Dalles’ partnership with MCCAC include racial and equity trainings for MCCAC’s board and staff, a regional coordinated entry system and the development of Permanent Supportive Housing. MCCAC hopes to house formerly houseless veterans and their families as well as Native and Latinx community members. The development would also include onsite supportive services to ensure the residents have the resources they need to thrive. ■

*Ms. Finmore is a Portland-area freelance writer. Contact her at [precisionpdx@comcast.net](mailto:precisionpdx@comcast.net).*

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# Pilot Program Establishes Partnerships to Better Serve Oregonians Experiencing Homelessness

**H**ermiston police officers started to notice an increase in the city's homeless population a couple of years ago as they began allocating more time to interacting with them and the housed people who were growing more frustrated with homelessness in their community.



Hermiston City Manager  
Byron Smith

City Manager Byron Smith said Hermiston's homeless population is predominately middle-aged males, though he has seen younger people as well. The city provides a warming station during the winters, and during warmer months, people experiencing homelessness tend to camp on property owned by the federal Bureau of Reclamation. However, like many cities, Hermiston has not been able to help homeless residents get the support they need to transition to

housing.

"We don't have the resources necessary to deal with all of the challenges, so we have to be in partnership," Smith said. "I think that's even more the case with some of the smaller cities we're partnering with. They just wouldn't have the resources to address a problem like this."

Among Hermiston's partners is the city of Umatilla, where the homeless population is small and consists of familiar faces. A trio of them move from place to place in RVs, and an RV park is available where they can pay a fee to stay in the day use area for a day or two at a time.

Another group of homeless residents camps behind a local gas station, where the owner allows them to stay as long as they don't cause trouble. Others are couch surfers on the brink of poverty who have friends or family who can put them up temporarily, explained Umatilla City Manager David Stockdale.

"The reason they seem to be here is they know somebody or, once upon a time, lived here and know the area," he said. "We work with them and we try to help get them whatever resources are available to them, which really isn't very much. We don't have a facility for people experiencing homelessness, so we just ask who they know in the area and can they stay with them?"

Community response to the issue of homelessness in Umatilla is mixed, Stockdale said, adding that panhandling is highly visible at a main exit off the interstate that is also the port of entry. While panhandling itself is not illegal, it is illegal to hand items outside of a vehicle while driving and sitting at a red light is still considered driving.

"Even though we only have about a half dozen people it feels like it's more than it is because of truck traffic and they have apparently been successful at panhandling," he said.

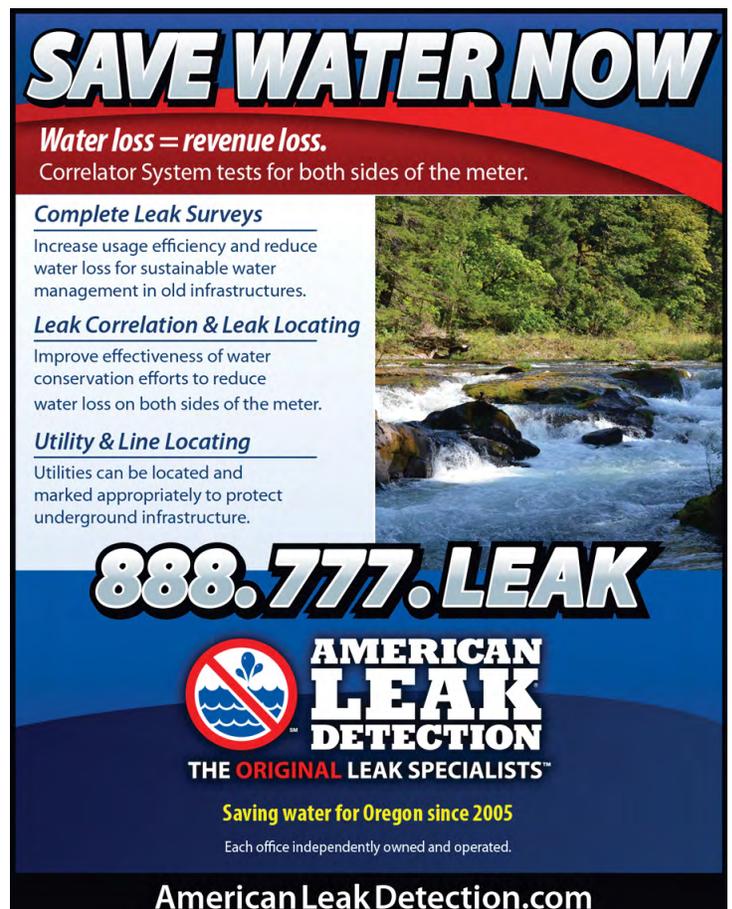
Stockdale added that most of the calls the city receives regarding people experiencing homelessness are expressions of concern rather than outrage.

"We get more questions than complaints, and it became very clear to me pretty quickly that our community wants to take a proactive approach and make sure that everyone who wants to have a safe place to rest has a safe place to rest," he said.

The partnership between Hermiston and Umatilla also includes the cities of Stanfield and Echo and Umatilla County, and is part of a program funded through HB 4123 to stand up a coordinated



Umatilla City Manager David  
Stockdale



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response to homelessness and address needs and service delivery through eight pilot programs across the state.

Passed during the 2022 legislative session, each pilot received \$1 million in state funding to operationalize coordinated offices, anchored by city-county partnerships, to strengthen their communities' homeless response. The pilots are intended to leverage and coordinate existing work in the community and identify gaps in partnerships with existing service providers.

The Eastern Oregon pilot is using its grant award to partner with the nonprofit Stepping Stones Alliance, which will provide a navigation center with places to sleep and other supplies and services for homeless people. Stockdale said it is a phased approach that should see the facility open November 1.

Another pilot region selected includes Wasco and Sherman counties; the cities of The Dalles and Hood River; and the Mid-Columbia Community Action Council (MCCAC). Kenny LaPoint, MCCAC's executive director, said the program allows the region to leverage work that had already started.

As an example, the MCCAC is developing a strategic plan that will be finalized this fall. A grant from Providence Health Systems helped initiate the planning, and HB 4123 will provide the funding the region needs to carry it out.

"That is a very unique position to be in when you can go to the folks who are doing your strategic plan and say, 'Here are the dollars that are going to be used to implement the plan,'" LaPoint said.

The MCCAC-led collaboration named its HB 4123 pilot the Office of Housing Stabilization and recently hired a director for it. Future plans include hiring a development director to lead fundraising and marketing efforts.

The eight pilot regions established by HB 4123 are:

- Benton County, Corvallis;
- Coos County, Coos Bay, North Bend;
- Deschutes County, Bend, Redmond, Sisters, La Pine;
- Hood River County, Wasco County, Sherman County, The Dalles, Hood River, Mid-Columbia Community Action Council;
- Lincoln County, Lincoln City, Newport, Toledo;
- Polk County, Falls City, Monmouth, Independence, Willamina, Dallas, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency;
- Tillamook County, Tillamook, Bay City, Garibaldi, Rockaway Beach, Wheeler, Manzanita, Community Action Resource Enterprises Inc. (CARE); and
- Umatilla County, Hermiston, Stanfield, Echo, Umatilla.

To learn more, please visit [www.orcities.org/resources/reference/homeless-solutions/hb-4123-pilots](http://www.orcities.org/resources/reference/homeless-solutions/hb-4123-pilots).

## OMA Establishes a Statewide Homelessness Taskforce

On March 4, the Oregon Mayors Association (OMA) Board of Directors authorized the creation of a statewide taskforce of mayors known as the Homelessness Taskforce.

During the OMA Board of Directors meeting on April 21, the following 25 mayors from across the state were appointed to the taskforce:

- Mayor Julie Akins, Ashland;
- Mayor Henry Balensifer, Warrenton;
- Mayor Lacey Beaty, Beaverton;
- Mayor Steve Callaway, Hillsboro;
- Mayor Rod Cross, Toledo;
- Mayor Dave Drotzmann, Hermiston;
- Mayor Jessica Engelke, North Bend;
- Mayor Gena Goodman-Campbell, Bend;
- Mayor Jeff Gowing, Cottage Grove;
- Mayor Teri Lenahan, North Plains;
- Mayor Carol MacInnes, Fossil;
- Mayor Meadow Martell, Cave Junction;
- Mayor Richard Mays, The Dalles;
- Mayor Kate McBride, Hood River;
- Mayor Michael Preedin, Sisters;
- Mayor Jason Snider, Tigard;
- Mayor Randy Sparacino, Medford;
- Mayor Travis Stovall, Gresham;
- Mayor Jim Trett, Detroit;
- Mayor Ray Turner, Lakeview;
- Mayor Tom Vialpando, Vale; and,
- Mayor Lucy Vinis, Eugene.

Mayor Gowing, the 2022 OMA President, is chairing all meetings of the Homelessness Taskforce. It is expected that the taskforce will hold a minimum of four meetings during calendar year 2022.

The OMA's Homelessness Taskforce was created to achieve three purposes. First, to serve as a foundation for developing a state funding package to present during the 2023 legislative session—with a goal of securing state funding which can be used by cities and their county and service provider partners to address homelessness in their respective communities. Second, for mayors to lay the groundwork for a longer-term financial support package from the state of Oregon as cities work to develop a continuing plan to properly respond to and address the homelessness crisis. Third, to position Oregon's mayors to speak with a common voice and provide a unified message on the homelessness crisis so that an effective campaign for state partnership and support can begin.

### LOC Contacts:

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Ariel Nelson, Lobbyist – [anelson@orcities.org](mailto:anelson@orcities.org)



# Q: How does my city regulate public property in relation to people experiencing homelessness?

**A:** In light of recent federal court decisions, combined with legislation passed by the Oregon Legislature during the 2021 session, many cities find themselves struggling to understand how they can regulate their public property in relation to people experiencing homelessness. Unfortunately, when the various federal and state laws are read together, there’s no simple answer—in fact, in some instances, there really is no answer. As frustrating as a lack of clarity may be, resources like this article and the LOC’s recently published *Guide to Persons Experiencing Homelessness* ([tinyurl.com/2p98t2wf](https://tinyurl.com/2p98t2wf)), can help cities maneuver this legal minefield.

Two key federal court opinions, *Martin v. Boise* and *Blake v. Grants Pass*, have significantly impacted the traditional manner in which cities regulate their public property. In 2018, the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, in *Martin*, interpreted the Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution to prohibit “the imposition of criminal penalties for sitting, sleeping, or lying outside on public property for homeless individuals who cannot obtain shelter ... because sitting, lying, and sleeping are ... universal and

unavoidable consequences of being human.” The court declared that a governmental entity cannot “criminalize conduct that is an unavoidable consequence of being homeless—namely sitting, lying, or sleeping.” 902 F3d 1031, 1048 (2018). A few years later, a federal district court in Oregon, via the *Blake* case, attempted to further clarify the decision in *Martin*. While *Martin* and *Blake* leave a lot of questions unanswered, what is clear from the decisions is that:

1. Cities cannot punish a person who is experiencing homelessness for sitting, sleeping, or lying on public property when that person has nowhere else to go. Whether a city’s prohibition is a civil or criminal violation is irrelevant;
2. Cities are not required to build or provide shelters for persons experiencing homelessness;
3. Cities can continue to impose the traditional sit, sleep, and lie prohibitions and regulations on person who do have access to shelter;

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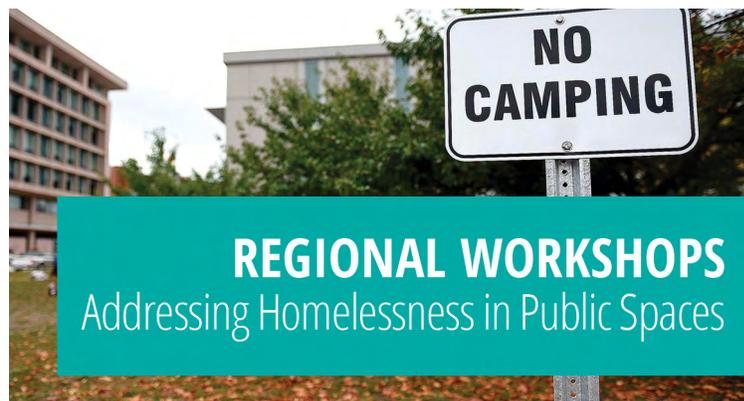
4. Persons experiencing homelessness who must sleep outside are entitled to take necessary minimal measures to keep themselves warm and dry while they are sleeping;
5. A person does not have access to shelter if:
  - They cannot access the shelter because of their gender, age, disability or familial status;
  - Accessing the shelter requires a person to submit themselves to a religious teaching or doctrine for which they themselves do not believe;
  - They cannot access the shelter because the shelter has a durational limitation that has been met or exceeded; or
  - Access to the shelter is prohibited because the person seeking access is under the influence of some substance (for example alcohol or drugs) or because of their past or criminal behavior.
6. Cities are allowed to build or provide shelters for persons experiencing homelessness.

In addition to these two pivotal cases, the Oregon Legislature enacted HB 3115 during the 2021 legislative session as an attempt to clarify, expand, and codify some of the key holdings within the court decisions. An additional piece of legislation, HB 3124, also impacts the manner in which cities regulate public property in relation to its use by persons experiencing homelessness. HB 3115, from a strictly legal perspective, did nothing more than restate the judicial decision found in *Martin v. Boise*, albeit a hard deadline to comply with those judicial decisions was imposed—said deadline is July 1, 2023.

HB 3124 does two things. First, it changes and adds to existing guidance and rules for how a city is to provide notice to homeless persons that an established campsite on public property is being closed, previously codified at ORS 203.077 et seq., now found at ORS 195.500, et seq. Second, it gives instructions on how a city is to oversee and manage property it removes from an established campsite located on public property.

The judicial decisions and statutory enacts described herein are complicated, nuanced, and need to be considered in light of other longstanding legal theories such as the “State Created Danger” principle. Additionally, with more and more litigation on this issue developing each year, most municipal attorneys expect the federal courts to clarify, expand, and/or change some of the holdings from *Martin* and *Blake*.

Ultimately, how a city chooses to regulate its public property, particularly in relation to persons experiencing homelessness, is a decision each city must make on its own. A city’s decision should be made not just on the legal principles at play, but on its own community’s needs, and be done in coordination with all relevant partners. As with any major decision, cities are advised to consult with experts on this topic, as well as best practice models, while considering the potential range of public and private resources available for local communities.



## REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

### Addressing Homelessness in Public Spaces

## LOC Hosting Workshops on Addressing Homelessness in Public Spaces

The League of Oregon Cities is hosting four regional workshops focusing on how public entities can address homelessness in their public spaces. Each half-day workshop will provide attendees with information on the following:

- How a public entity can manage its property in a way that respects each of its community members, but also complies with recent federal court decisions and newly enacted Oregon laws;
- How cities can effectively and collaboratively work with interested partners and community members to ensure any regulations of their public spaces are inclusive and in the best interests of all residents; and
- Identifying the barriers local governments face in addressing homelessness in their public spaces, and pinpointing the resources each community needs to respond to this crisis.

Workshops will be held in the following four locations on the following dates:

- September 12 – Redmond
- September 19 – Hermiston
- October 17 – Newport
- October 24 – Cottage Grove

Each workshop will begin at 10:30 a.m. and conclude no later than 3 p.m. Lunch will be provided. These workshops are free events, but preregistration is required. Due to the hands-on workshop format, these events will be available in-person only.

Register online at [tinyurl.com/LOCworkshops](https://tinyurl.com/LOCworkshops).

Contact: Ariel Nelson, LOC Lobbyist – [anelson@orcities.org](mailto:anelson@orcities.org)



Photo by Anthony Quintano

# Supreme Court Preview for Local Governments 2022-23

By Lisa Soronen, State and Local Legal Center (SLLC), Washington, D.C.

*\*Indicates a case where the SLLC has or likely will file an amicus brief.*

The U.S. Supreme Court’s 2022-23 term begins as always on the first Monday in October—this year October 3. The local government docket is thinner than usual—so far. The two biggest cases on the docket right now involve whether elections rules may be challenged in state court and whether affirmative action in college admission is unconstitutional. These cases, depending on how they are decided and reasoned, may have some impact on local governments. This article discusses two cases of significant interest to local governments, no matter how they are decided, involving defining wetlands under the Clean Water Act and First Amendment free speech.

In *Sackett v. EPA*<sup>\*</sup> the U.S. Supreme Court will decide the proper test for determining when “wetlands” are “waters of the United States.”

The Clean Water Act (CWA) prohibits any person who lacks a permit from discharging pollutants, including rocks and sand, into “navigable waters,” defined as “waters of the United States.” CWA regulations define “waters of the United States” to include “wetlands” that are “adjacent” to traditional navigable waters and their tributaries.

In *Rapanos v. United States* (2006), Justice Scalia, writing for four Justices, stated that “waters of the United States” extends to “relatively permanent, standing or flowing bodies of water” and to wetlands with a “continuous surface connection” to such permanent waters.

For Justice Kennedy, writing alone, if wetlands have a “significant nexus” to navigable waters they are “waters of the United States.” According to the Ninth Circuit, while the Scalia plurality did not totally reject the concept of a “significant nexus,” it opined that

only wetlands with a “physical connection” to traditional navigable waters are “waters of the United States.”

In this case the Sacketts purchased a “soggy residential lot” 300 feet from Idaho’s Priest Lake. To the north of their lot, with a road in between, is a wetland that drains to a tributary that feeds



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into a creek that flows southwest of the Sacketts' property and empties into Priest Lake.

After obtaining permits from the county the Sacketts began backfilling the property with sand and gravel to create a stable grade. The Environmental Protection Agency issued the Sacketts a "formal administrative compliance order" explaining they were violating the CWA.

Before the Ninth Circuit the Sacketts argued that the Scalia opinion controls whether their property contains wetlands.

The Ninth Circuit disagreed. Per the Supreme Court in *Marks v. United States* (1977) if there aren't five votes to support one rationale of a Supreme Court case the holding of the case is "the narrowest ground to which a majority of the Justices would assent if forced to choose in almost all cases." According to the Ninth Circuit the Kennedy concurrence supplied the controlling rule in *Rapanos* because if forced to the four dissenting Justices would have joined Kennedy's opinion rather than Scalia's.

In *303 Creative v. Elenis*\* the U.S. Supreme will decide whether applying a public-accommodation law to compel an artist to speak or stay silent violates the Free Speech Clause of the First Amendment.

Lorie Smith owns 303 Creative LLC where she designs websites. She wants to start creating wedding websites, but she doesn't want to create websites that celebrate same-sex marriages. And she wants to explain on her website that doing so would compromise her Christian beliefs.

Colorado's Anti-Discrimination Act's (CADA) "accommodations clause" prohibits public accommodations from refusing to provide services based on sexual orientation. Numerous local governments in multiple states have adopted similar ordinances.

CADA's "communications clause" prohibits communicating that someone's patronage is unwelcome because of sexual orientation.

Over a lengthy dissent, the Tenth Circuit ruled that CADA doesn't violate 303 Creative's First Amendment free speech rights.

According to the Tenth Circuit CADA's "accommodations clause" compels speech and is a content-based restriction on speech. The Tenth Circuit applied strict scrutiny to the "accommodations clause" and concluded it passed. According to the Tenth Circuit: "Colorado has a compelling interest in protecting both the dignity and interests of members of marginalized groups and their material interests in accessing the commercial marketplace." Likewise, per the Tenth Circuit, the "accommodations clause" is narrowly tailored to Colorado's interest in ensuring "equal access to publicly available goods and services."

## Conclusion

It would be unusual if the Court didn't decide a number of First Amendment cases, a Fourth Amendment case or two, and a handful of cases involving police officers. Just because these topics, all of keen interest to local governments, aren't on the docket yet doesn't mean they won't be ultimately. The Supreme Court will continue to accept cases to be decided in its 2022-23 term through January. Numerous cases involving local governments are likely to be added. ■



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# Frequently Asked Questions About Emerald Ash Borer In Oregon

By Kristin Ramstad, ODF Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program  
(Jim Gersbach, ODF Public Affairs, contributed to this article)

**A**s almost everyone has heard by now, the invasive and destructive pest, emerald ash borer (EAB) has been detected recently in the city of Forest Grove in Washington County. This article seeks to answer some of the questions city officials and staff may have about the pest and how they should prepare for it.

## What's the Big Deal about EAB?

Although ash trees are not one of the most common urban trees in Oregon, tens of thousands of beautiful, large, non-native ashes are growing in parks and yards and along streets statewide. The experience in other states shows that up to 99% of all ash trees in cities and towns die within a few years of the arrival of emerald ash borer. We expect the same will be true in Oregon. Tree loss on this scale will be expensive for many cities to deal with and momentous at a time when communities are trying to increase tree canopy to reduce urban heat and improve the mental and physical health of their residents.

However, the biggest impact of EAB will likely be along Oregon's rivers and streams. Research shows that Oregon's native ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*) is highly susceptible to emerald ash borer. The experience in other states shows that almost the entire wild ash population is wiped out once emerald ash borer arrives. The same devastation is expected in the Pacific Northwest. Oregon ash plays a vital role in the wetlands and rivers where it prefers to grow. It's canopy shades streams, helping keep water cool for fish. Its extensive root system helps reduce erosion along streams. Many birds, animals and insects eat the seeds and leaves. So, the loss of the tree will harm our native forest ecosystems.

## Will the State of Oregon be attempting to eradicate this outbreak?

The 16 ash trees initially found to be infested with emerald ash borer were promptly cut down and properly disposed of. However, it's evident that the insects had been in the area for at least a couple of years prior to discovery. Given the distance female

emerald ash borers can fly, it is almost certain that this pest has spread too widely to eradicate. Over the course of two decades, no state out of 35 has succeeded in eradicating emerald ash borer once it was detected in their area. The focus now is on preventing people from spreading it farther and faster than it would naturally travel. One way all of us can slow the spread of this pest is by not moving firewood beyond the local area where it is cut.

## What does the State of Oregon recommend cities do about EAB at this point?

First, cities should avoid planting any more ash trees given the presence of emerald ash borer in the state. We recommend cities and towns with approved street tree lists eliminate the ash trees from them, as has already been done in several Oregon cities.

Second, find out how many trees in your city are ash and where they are located. The Oregon Department of Forestry has tree inventory software<sup>1</sup> it can make available to cities for free for this purpose. Next, among your city's ashes, determine the healthy large trees that should be treated to keep them from getting infested, and map the trees that are already unhealthy.

Third, if EAB has not yet been detected in your area, focus your city's efforts on preparing for an infestation. Your town should consider both how it will treat and preserve its large healthy ash, and how it will remove and store the infested wood from dead trees until it can be properly disposed of. Please do not move the wood more than about 10 miles in any direction area to avoid spreading the insect faster than it could spread naturally!

Generally, the guidance is that if the pest has been detected 25 miles away, your town should be on "high alert" and be ready to start its EAB treatment on important ashes. Once the pest is detected within 15 miles of your city, begin treating those designated trees. Since experience shows that heavily infested trees

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<sup>1</sup> To find out more about Tree Plotter Inventory software, please send an email to [urbanforestry@odf.oregon.gov](mailto:urbanforestry@odf.oregon.gov), with "TPI interest" in the subject line.



Emerald ash borer exit holes from infested tree. Credit: C. Buhl (ODF Forest Health)



Emerald ash borer found in Forest Grove earlier this summer.

cannot be saved, do not waste resources trying to spray or chemically treat infested trees. Prompt removal is advised.

### Where should cities look for guidance on ash tree treatments?

Chemical treatment specifically to prevent infestation by emerald ash borer is available but should be applied prior to the arrival of the insect in one's community, as previously described. Such treatments also must be repeated over time as their effectiveness wanes after a couple years. The Oregon Department of Agriculture, which is the lead agency in EAB response, regulates pesticide use in Oregon and will have guidance on what treatments can be safely used in Oregon. Check with your local urban forestry professionals or OSU Extension agent to see what treatment may make sense for your situation and be allowed in your local area (some jurisdictions may have local restrictions on certain classes of pesticides). It's best to purchase treatments from reputable tree-care companies to avoid ineffective or fraudulent applications.

### Should Cities be Actively Looking for EAB?

City staff that work in parks and around street trees should be familiar with the signs and symptoms of EAB, and keep this information "front of mind" when working outside. Cities can also provide links to the Oregon Department of Agriculture's

EAB webpage ([tinyurl.com/y9ev7kwr](https://tinyurl.com/y9ev7kwr)) on their city webpage to help make its residents aware of this pest. However, city staff and city residents should also be reminded that drought, disease, and other factors can make ash trees look unhealthy, so they should not presume their declining ash have EAB yet. Also, there are several native emerald ash borer "look alike" beetles. So, if one sees a green metallic beetle—don't panic!—but do try to document it with clear photos (or by capture) and report it to the Oregon Invasives Hotline at [www.oregoninvasiveshotline.org](http://www.oregoninvasiveshotline.org).

### What about planting new trees when the ashes are removed?

To maintain the livability of many Oregon cities, the cities should plan to replace the ashes they lose to EAB. The best defense against future pest infestations and climate change-related tree decline is to create urban forests with as much species diversity as possible—with native and non-native trees, as well as through judicious planting of cultivated tree varieties. When planning for and planting trees, ensure there is ample space for roots with good quality soil, no overhead obstructions such as powerlines, and consistent irrigation for the first five years. Research replacement tree species that are likely to be more drought and pest resistant. Local city urban forestry programs often have lists of trees recommended for your local community. Search for those online.

### Does EAB attack any other tree species?

No. EAB only attacks ash trees (*Genus Fraxinus*).

If you have more questions about EAB, please get in touch with us at [urbanforestry@odf.oregon.gov](mailto:urbanforestry@odf.oregon.gov). If you want to report a suspected EAB infestation, please use the Oregon Invasives Hotline, linked above. Periodically, we will be hosting webinars and other virtual gatherings with experts to discuss how best to respond to EAB, and where in the state it has been detected. Use [urbanforestry@odf.oregon.gov](mailto:urbanforestry@odf.oregon.gov) to let us know if you would like to be included in a list to be notified when we are holding these sessions. ■



# OregonSaves Deadline Set for March 2023

The Oregon Legislature created OregonSaves, the nation's first state-administered retirement savings program, to combat the retirement savings crisis impacting Oregonians and Americans across the country. One in four working adults currently have no retirement savings<sup>1</sup>. Prior to the program's launch in 2017, roughly one-half of Oregon's workforce—an estimated 1 million workers—lacked access to a workplace retirement savings option. OregonSaves addresses this disparity by ensuring Oregonians have a simple and convenient way to save for retirement at work.

OregonSaves enables Oregonians to save for retirement through automatic payroll deductions. Contributions are deposited into a Roth Individual Retirement Account (IRA) that stays with the account holder even if they change jobs. This program feature stems from research suggesting that workers are 15 times more likely to save for retirement if an option is available at their workplace<sup>2</sup>. Self-employed individuals, or those who want to open an account independently, can do so with a few clicks. Money deposited into an OregonSaves Roth IRA is invested to help savers' money grow over time.

OregonSaves imposes no costs on employers. Facilitating the program for employees is free and there is no fiduciary responsibility placed on businesses. Employers simply need to submit Roth IRA contributions for employees enrolled in the program each time they run payroll.

Today, more than 114,000 employees from more than 17,000 businesses are saving for retirement with every paycheck. Total saver contributions exceed \$147 million, and the average account balance is nearly \$1,300. The increase in retirement savings stemming from OregonSaves continues to garner attention from states seeking to establish similar programs. With five years of operation under its belt, preparation is now in progress for the final phase of the program's implementation, which involves welcoming businesses with fewer than five employees. This will be the first time any state has offered a program of this kind to its smallest businesses. Oregon anticipates many more workers will begin saving for their future, as this largest group of Oregon employees join the program.

The deadline for all Oregon businesses without an existing workplace retirement savings option to enroll in OregonSaves is March 1, 2023. Businesses can learn more about the program and register by visiting [www.oregonsaves.com](http://www.oregonsaves.com). ■

1 *Report on the Economic Well-Being of U.S. Households in 2020* - May 2021. The Federal Reserve, May 2021.

2 Harvey, Catherine. *Access to Workplace Retirement Plans by Race and Ethnicity*. AARP, May 2021.



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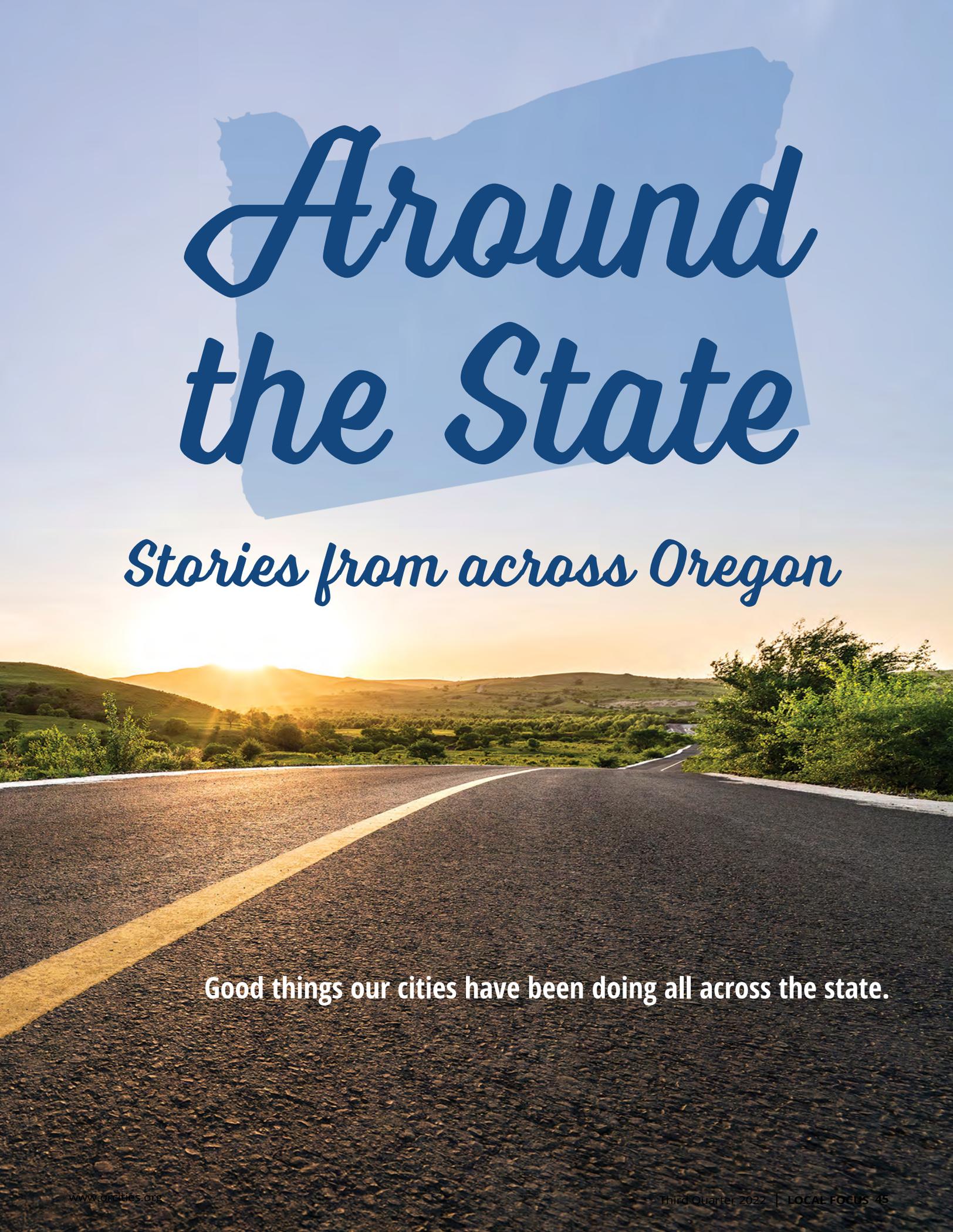
Underground leaks may be out of sight, out of mind, but if left untreated, these leaks can take a hidden toll: wasted water, wasted energy and reduced capacity to serve customers. To help make locating and repairing underground leaks more affordable, tap into Energy Trust of Oregon's cash incentives.



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# TALENT

## Landmark Revitalized Post-Almeda Fire

A Talent landmark that was decimated by the 2020 Almeda Fire but remained standing is getting a major revitalization thanks to state funding. The Malmgren Garage was originally built in 1924 as a service workshop for vehicles passing through the Rogue Valley, and became a pottery studio in 2020.

Now it will be turned into a multi-business space with additional room for apartments in the back following a \$200,000 grant from Oregon Parks and Recreation, according to KTVL News 10.

“In my mind, this is about a renewal of hope,” said Mayor Darby Ayers-Flood. “This building has been recognized far and wide for its historical significance, and has stood through the fire.”

To celebrate the rebuilding success, the space has been turned into an art show with pieces inspired by the Almeda Fire. Before the fire, the pottery studio was run by artist Bonnie Morgan. She has



*Credit: Kevin McNamara/KTVL*

been involved in the redevelopment, and said she and the rest of the team are attempting to get the building listed on the National Register of Historic Places given its role in Talent’s development in the early 20th century.



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# EUGENE

## Downtown Riverfront Park Grand Opening

Eugene's summer of celebrations kicked off with the grand opening of its new riverfront park, designed to serve as a vibrant hub for community events.

Downtown Riverfront Park is located across the DeFazio Bridge and is the city's effort to turn the old Eugene Water and Electric Board's utility yard into a park that connects downtown Eugene to the Willamette River. The three-acre property stretches about a third of a mile along the Willamette.

Construction began in May 2020. Improvements to the property include walking paths, seating areas, decks, river outlooks and a new section of bike path.

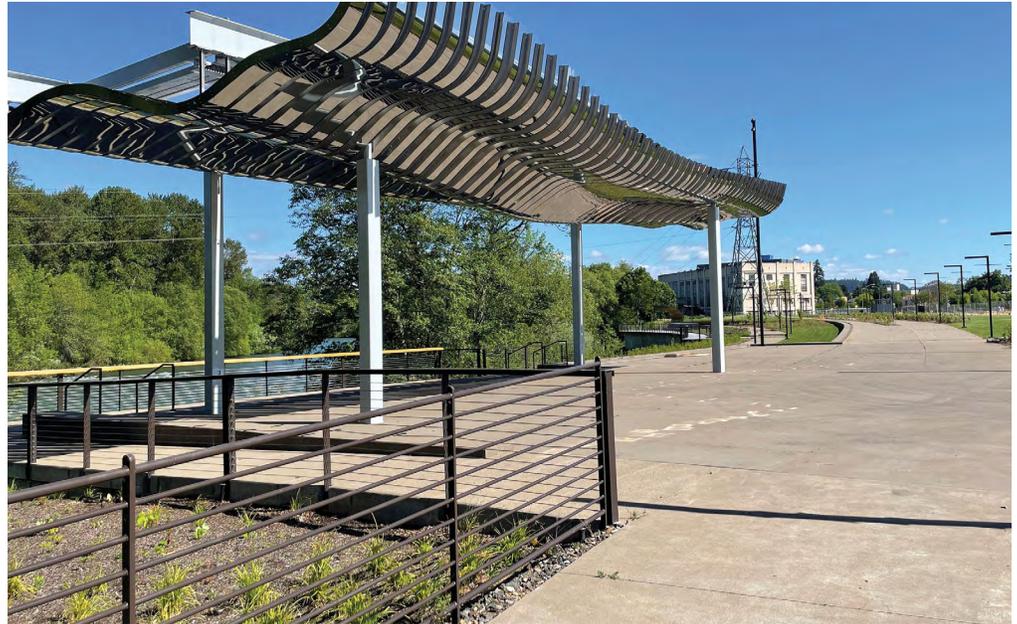
The June 10 grand opening took place about a month before Eugene hosted the 2022 World Athletics Championships at Hayward Field. The park hosted a free festival for community members during the Oregon2022 event and livestreamed the championships, KEZI reported.

Funding for Downtown Riverfront Park's development came from the 2018 Parks and Recreation Bond, urban renewal agency funds and public works capital funds. Ongoing maintenance of the park is being funded by a 2018 parks and recreation levy.

The city's website announced that, with the park's completion, it is now turning its attention to the adjacent future plaza space. Plaza design will be completed in 2023, with one year of construction anticipated to begin in the spring of 2024. When the riverfront property is fully developed, the one-acre park plaza will be nestled between multifamily housing and a restaurant.

Eugene also recently opened its Farmer's Market Pavilion, and the city council voted unanimously to direct the city manager to develop a downtown action plan that sets an agenda of funding future projects there. Eugene Economic Strategies Manager Anne Fifield said the plan could include redeveloping commercial buildings into affordable housing, repairing sidewalks and improving public spaces.

Councilor Claire Syrett pointed out that Eugene's downtown needs a pharmacy. "We want this neighborhood and all the people we want to live here to consider it well served," she said, in an interview with *Eugene Weekly*.



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# TOLEDO

## New Murals Brighten Downtown

Toledo's downtown is sporting the first of several new murals that will be painted as part of its Art Toledo program. The city launched the program nearly two years ago as part of its effort to revitalize the area.

Painted by Jeremy Nichols in partnership with the Portland Street Art Alliance, the mural was funded by grants that included a Hometown Grant from T-Mobile, according to City Manager Judy Richter.

"We're pretty excited about the result and we think it's fantastic," Richter said, adding Nichols completed the mural in about a week despite poor weather conditions. "We liked his work and the other thing is he uses spray paint, and that seems to be less weather dependent and more tolerant of challenging conditions."

A committee consisting of business owners, community members and elected officials described to Nichols's characteristics that represent the city, and he drew a sketch of the mural based on their ideas. The committee suggested minor modifications, such as featuring Toledo's mascot, Boomer.

"I have only heard positive things," Richter said. "People think it's great, it's colorful, and it's big and eye-catching. You can't miss it



as you're turning on to Main Street. Before it was just a yellow building and now it's very inviting."

A local artist has completed a sketch for a second mural to be painted at Business 20 and A Street. It was scheduled to be completed in June if the weather cooperated. A third mural is in the planning phases for the back of Timbers Restaurant & Lounge on Main Street.



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— Thomson Reuters, 2018

# TIGARD

## Universal Plaza Project Underway

Tigard kicked off construction of Universal Plaza, its signature downtown revitalization project, with a May groundbreaking. The plaza is designed as a “community gathering spot in the heart of downtown Tigard that celebrates our shared humanity and our one shared planet,” the city states on its website.

The 1.2-acre site is located between the Fanno Creek Trail and Tigard’s Main Street and transit center. The design team ensured an inclusive design process where community members volunteered to become “design advisors,” allowing them to weigh in several times on all aspects of the project. A test pilot program led to the final design receiving enthusiastic support from the community.

The first phase, planned to open in 2023, includes an interactive water feature and splash pad; public restroom; porch swings; two event lawns; a shelter for vending and storage; and a bike, pedestrian and boardwalk connection to the Fanno Creek Trail.

Phase 2 features include a community room and built-in seating both alongside the water feature and throughout the lawn. An



overhead canopy will connect the community room, concession spaces and restrooms with a linear timber-frame structure. This will provide shade and weather protection, creating a promenade for markets, food vendors and performances.

The plaza is funded through tax increment financing dollars collected in the downtown area.



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# MADRAS

## Grant for WWII Hangar Restoration

The city of Madras has received a grant from Oregon Heritage that will allow it to professionally restore the windows of a World War II hangar at Madras Municipal Airport. Built in 1943 to house Boeing B-17 bombers, the hangar was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2015.

The replacement of the windows is part of a larger goal of restoring the hangar. It is not currently weatherproof, and the broken and warped windows make it difficult to preserve the inside, according to Michele Quinn, office coordinator for the Madras Public Works department and the grant writer.

The Madras Pioneer reported that the grant is part of the Preserving Oregon Grants program, which provides matching grants for rehabilitation work that supports the preservation of historic resources listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The city matched the \$20,000 grant, and Quinn hopes the \$40,000 total will make it possible to repair all of the building's remaining windows. Originally, the team thought replacing them would be more cost effective, but restoration was less expensive and preserved the integrity of the originals.



*Credit: Pat Kruis, Madras Pioneer*

“It’s nice to be able to keep the windows and restore them instead of replacing them,” Quinn told the Pioneer. “It’s part of the original building and it preserves with it so much history.”



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# PORTLAND

## Rose City Feeds Phil

Portland recently enjoyed the national spotlight shining on its cuisine, culture and natural beauty in the Netflix series “Somebody Feed Phil.” The food and travel show is hosted by Phil Rosenthal, a TV writer, producer and creator of the hit sitcom “Everybody Loves Raymond.”

During the Portland episode, which *The Oregonian* reported was filmed in the summer of 2021 and is part of Season 5, Rosenthal visited the Prost Marketplace food cart pod, Kachka, Han Oak, Ruthie’s food cart, Tov Coffee and Doe Donuts.

He attended a Feast Portland event at The Redd, and took a trip with “Top Chef” Portland contestant Shota Nakajima to the Jacobsen Salt Co. location at Netarts Bay, on the Oregon coast.

In addition, Rosenthal rode a bike around Portland and went kayaking in Clackamas County. While admitting that he’s “not much of an outdoorsman,” he enjoyed the view of the water and commented, “Well, this is peaceful. Very pretty.”

Near the end of the episode, Rosenthal recommends that others visit Portland, too, and noted that it’s probably one of the best food cities per capita that he’s been to. “I love these brilliant, creative young people taking tiny spaces and producing immense flavors out of there,” he says. “Why didn’t I come here sooner?”



Phil Rosenthal, right, chows down with Peter Cho of Portland’s Han Oak restaurant in the Portland-filmed episode of “Somebody Feed Phil.” Photo courtesy of Netflix

### Have City News to Share?

Email us your copy (500 words max.) detailing your city’s notable achievement (i.e., a project, initiative, award or individual honor), preferably with an image. Contact: Kevin Toon, [ktoon@orcities.org](mailto:ktoon@orcities.org)

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