

5 Garage Safety Tips

When you throw open the windows, you'll likely be spending more time with the garage door open, too. Make access to your outdoor equipment safer with these tips to get your garage ready after the warmer months.

Organizing clutter is part of the process, but cooler weather can also serve as a reminder to make sure your garage equipment and features are secure and functioning properly.

* Your garage floor tends to capture grime and grit from the outdoors, especially where your car sits. Take time to thoroughly sweep and mop, but also take stock of the floor's condition for any chips or other damage that may grow worse over time and pose a risk for tripping or other safety issues.

* Check your garage door performance. Ensure doors are rolling smoothly with no hitches. If you do happen to notice any abnormalities, it's a good time to investigate. In some cases, a little grease or a minor adjustment is all you need to get things back on track.

* Don't forget to check your garage door sensors, too. Colder weather means animals and children (and their toys) are more likely to find themselves in an automated door's path when it begins to lower. Ensure sensors are operating properly to prevent injury or property damage.

* Verify all outlets, lights and other electrical features are in proper operating condition and all wires are intact and free of damage or fraying.

* Ensure any poisonous materials,



such as paint, garden pesticides, cleaners and automotive fluids, are safely stored out of reach of pets and children that may have increased access to the garage during summer months. Also check for spills or

flammable materials.

Taking time to safety-proof your garage can provide your family months of stress-free use. Find more tips for getting your garage in order at eLivingtoday.com.

Watermelon Bourbon Glaze with Grilled Flank Steak



Servings: 6

- 1 1/2 cups watermelon juice (approximately 2 1/2 cups chopped watermelon, blended)
- 2 tablespoon minced garlic
- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 2 teaspoon hot sauce
- 1/4-1/2 cup bourbon
- 2 pounds flank steak or London broil
- 1/4 teaspoon cornstarch

In medium saucepan over medium-high heat, reduce watermelon juice to 2/3 cup. Toward end of reduction, add garlic. Remove from heat, cool 10 minutes then add soy sauce, brown sugar, hot sauce and bourbon. Mix well.

Place watermelon-bourbon glaze in large zip-top bag. Add steak and massage to cover meat. Close bag and refrigerate 3-4 hours.

Heat grill to high heat. Remove steak from plastic bag and gently shake to remove excess glaze.

Grill steak 4-6 minutes; turn, grill 4-6 minutes, depending on thickness of steak. Remove from heat. Steak should be pink in center.

Allow steak to rest on platter or cutting board 10 minutes. Mix small amount of watermelon-bourbon glaze with cornstarch. In small saucepan over medium-high heat, add cornstarch mixture to remaining glaze and simmer 3-5 minutes. Reduce to medium heat until mixture thickens. Remove from heat.

Cut flank steak on bias into thin strips. Drizzle watermelon-bourbon glaze over top.

Source: National Watermelon Promotion Board

26 Counties receive \$26 Million for Homeless

Story by Milo Van Elder

Douglas County gets \$1.4 Million

Salem Sept 12, 2023 - Rural Counties in Oregon will now receive a portion of the over \$200 Million that the Legislature allotted to address homelessness in the last early session. Announced by Governor Tina Kotek on September 12th, 26 counties, including Douglas County, will be receiving a combined total of \$26 million. Designated to get people off of the streets, reducing car camping, alternatives to dangerous situations and housing or re-housing people, either temporarily in shelters or permanently in homes.

According to the governors press release on September 12th, "Homelessness is a crisis in both urban and rural communities throughout Oregon. This funding, tied to specific outcomes, will make a measurable impact in addressing this crisis in rural Oregon. And we can't stop here - I will keep pushing for concrete solutions that will support community needs going forward."

The Legislature, in House Bill 5019, designated it early in the session as part of \$200 million allocated to fight homelessness. It is expected to pay for 100 new shelter beds and get 450 households into stable living situations by June 2025.

The 26 counties were excluded from Kotek's emergency homelessness declaration in January. It targeted the counties with the highest increases in homelessness. Governor Kotek

allocated nearly \$80 million to large urban counties last April, including central Oregon and the Portland, Eugene, Medford, Salem and Ashland areas.

Each county, individually, applied by submitting plans and showing how the money will be spent. Additionally, they also had to declare a homeless state of emergency to receive money. Jefferson County did not make that declaration, stated Jeff Rasmussen, the county administrative officer. Jefferson County did receive money from the April allocation to central Oregon, but wasn't among the 26 counties in September 12th release, according to Rasmussen and a housing agency spokeswoman.

The governor's office received requests for a total of \$37 million, more than is available. So the \$26 million was divided up based on the applications and a formula developed by the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department.

The Office of Emergency Management and the housing agency and will handle implementation details. The money will be managed by the Department of Administrative Services, which oversees contracts.

Elisabeth Shepard, a Kotek spokeswoman, expressed that the governor expects to closely follow progress around the state on fighting homelessness. "This is among her top three priorities," she said.

Breakdown on the 26 rural counties, funding and plan:

- Baker, Grant, Union and Wallowa counties: \$1.2 million to re-house at least 33 households
- Benton County: \$2.4 million to add at least 50 shelter beds and re-house at least 31 households
- Clatsop County: \$3.8 million to add at least 80 shelter beds and re-house at least 33 households
- Columbia County: \$867,453 to re-house at least 20 households
- Coos County: \$1.9 million to add at least eight shelter beds and re-house at least 32 households
- Curry County: \$594,000 to re-house at least 14 households
- Douglas County: \$1.4 million to re-house at least 34 households
- Gilliam, Morrow, Umatilla and Wheeler counties: \$2.1 million to add at least 25 shelter beds and re-house at least 40 households
- Harney and Malheur counties: \$1.3 million to re-house at least 34 households
- Hood River, Sherman and Wasco and counties: \$1.9 million to add at least 34 shelter beds and re-house at least 29 households
- Josephine County: \$2 million to add at least 16 shelter beds and re-house at least 31 households
- Klamath and Lake counties: \$1.4 million to re-house at least 38 households
- Lincoln County: \$856,178 to add at least 70 shelter beds and re-house at least 16 households
- Linn County: \$1.9 million to add at least 30 shelter beds and re-house at least 32 households
- Tillamook County: \$769,404 to add at least 20 shelter beds and re-house at least 12 households
- Yamhill County: \$1.3 million to add at least 14 shelter beds and rehouse at least 21 households