



# THE REDMOND Spokesman

A special good morning to subscriber Leroy Newport

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## Redmond Police propose new station to City Council

*Built in '98, current facility is 'failing,' officials say*

BY GARRETT ANDREWS  
The Bulletin

REDMOND — A proposal to build a new Redmond Police station that could cost at least \$15 million went before a Redmond City Council work session Tuesday night.

Redmond Police Department officials say their department has far outgrown its current 12,850-square-foot

facility and will ask the council for permission to begin looking for property to build a new headquarters.

If approved, voters could be asked to pass a levy to help fund the project.

"We are in the very early stages of this process," said Redmond Capt. Devin Lewis. "This isn't even a first step — more like a half a step."

The current facility, built in 1998, is located on a 1-acre lot at 777 SW Deschutes Ave. It's deficient in several ways, Lewis said. There is a shortage of secured parking and storage space. Evidence now is stored in three loca-

tions off-site due to space limitations. The HVAC and plumbing systems are failing, which has led to \$150,000 in maintenance costs in the past four years.

Lewis said due to crowding, the department cannot offer crime victims a secure lobby when they come to report an offense, or auditory privacy.

Like the city itself, the Redmond Police Department has grown considerably since 2000, when it employed 36 sworn and non-sworn staff members. Today, there are 55 sworn and non-sworn personnel plus three part-

time employees. Redmond's population has more than doubled in that time, from 13,418 residents in 2000 to 35,439 in 2020, according to the U.S. Census.

According to a PowerPoint presentation accompanying the proposal, land acquisition would cost \$2 to \$3 million, design would cost \$1 to \$2 million and construction, \$12 to \$15 million with a ceiling of \$30 million.

A voter-approved general obligation bond is listed among the proposed funding methods, along with

the city fully financing the project, or a mix of the two.

Selling the current station property could net the city an estimated \$2 to \$3 million.

Bend Police headquarters on NE 15th Street was built in 2003 with a second phase completed in 2009. The department is not completely out of space, according to Bend Lt. Juli McConkey, and there are plans for future growth, as there are for other city facilities.

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### MASS VACCINATIONS AT THE FAIRGROUNDS

# 'WE LOVE HELPING PEOPLE GET BACK TO NORMAL'

BY SUZANNE ROIG  
The Bulletin

REDMOND — Wind whipped jackets open and tugged papers attached to clipboards as a line of people snaked around the edge of a building at the Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center. If it wasn't for the masks and the 6-foot distance between each person, it could have been a line to enter a rodeo or an exhibit. There was nothing that underscored the importance of the event: getting a vaccine.

"We get a lot of people who feel relieved," said Holle Galyon, a volunteer. "We love helping people get back to normal. I love the energy. It's like Disneyland for adults."

Since the mass vaccination clinic opened at the fairgrounds the week of Jan. 18, about 76,498 Central Oregon residents have been through to receive a vaccine, according to Deschutes County Health Services, which teamed up with St. Charles



Dean Guernsey/Bulletin photos

ABOVE: Patrick Punch administers a COVID-19 vaccine to Butch Boswell during a vaccination clinic at the Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center on April 8. BELOW: Punch gives a shot to Teague Dupras at the fairgrounds, where about 3,000 people are being vaccinated in Redmond each day.

Health System to run the clinic.

Bashia McCarthy, a Bend resident and vaccination clinic volunteer, said she focuses on making people feel good about what they're doing.

She does that by looking up from the

paperwork and connecting with the residents coming in for their vaccines.

At various checkpoints, people made their way past orange-vested volunteers who waved them through. People arrived on time or early.

The clinic could get busier depending on how many vaccines are sent out by the Oregon Health Authority. As of Monday, anyone age 16 and older is now able to sign up for a vaccination. To register, go to [centraloregoncovidvaccine.com](http://centraloregoncovidvaccine.com).

Those without internet access can call 541-699-5109.

On any given day, there are about 180 volunteers plus 30 U.S. Army National Guard members and 30 staffers from St. Charles, Volunteers in Medicine and the county, said Hayley Rich, Deschutes County Sheriff's Office Emergency Services coordinator.

There are two shifts per day, about 5½ hours each, Rich said.

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Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

A rockchuck sits near its burrow at Hugh Hartman Elementary School in Redmond last week.

## Rockchucks return to infest area school grounds

BY KYLE SPURR  
The Bulletin

Rockchucks have continued to infest some school grounds in Redmond.

Last year, the Redmond School District was alarmed by a horde of rockchucks, also known as yellow-bellied marmots, at Hugh Hartman Elementary School.

The district declared a pest emergency after staff found feces and holes near the elementary school's playground. But by the time the school district decided it needed to exterminate the rockchucks, it was too late in the spring season, said Sheila Miller, spokesperson for the school district.

"Last year we had the same issues at Hugh Hartman, but our extermination attempts came too late in the season, so they weren't very effective," Miller said.

As students return to in-person learning this spring during the COVID-19 pandemic, they are encountering rockchucks that are waking up from hibernation.

The marmots emerge from hibernation the last week of February through the first week of March, according to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The rockchucks create holes that cause tripping hazards, and their feces can spread disease such as salmonella, according to wildlife officials.

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## Spokesman Calendar

### Events in and around Redmond

The Redmond Spokesman welcomes event information for its community calendar. Submissions are limited to nonprofit, free and live entertainment events. Deadline is 5 p.m. Thursday for the following Wednesday's paper. Items are published on a space-available basis and may be edited. Contact us at [news@redmondspokesman.com](mailto:news@redmondspokesman.com) or fax 541-548-3203.

### WEDNESDAY 4/21

**Life Enrichment:** This webinar explores the importance of engaging older adults in personalized interests and opportunities to learn and grow as a person; 9 a.m.-Noon; online; [go.evnt.com/765790-0](http://go.evnt.com/765790-0)

**Redmond Housing and Community Development Committee Meeting:** The committee will discuss community development block grant training and funding priorities and community needs for the 2021-22 grant's funding cycle; 4-6 p.m.; online; [go.evnt.com/769704-0](http://go.evnt.com/769704-0) or 541-504-3046.

**Country Dance Lesson/Line Dance:** Award-winning dancer and choreographer Jordan Hunt will be teaching country dances in the outdoor space, dress warmly, no outside food or beverages allowed; 6-7 p.m.; registration required; General Duffy's Waterhole, 404 SW Forest Ave., Redmond; [go.evnt.com/769851-1](http://go.evnt.com/769851-1) or 541-527-4345.

**Mystery Book Club:** Please join us for Mystery Book Club. We will be discussing The Water Rituals by Eva Garcia Saenz; 6-7 p.m.; online; [go.evnt.com/753629-0](http://go.evnt.com/753629-0) or 541-306-6564.

### THURSDAY 4/22

**Earth Day Cleanup on Rim of Wild & Scenic Middle Deschutes River:** Celebrate Earth Day with Friends and Neighbors of the Deschutes Canyon Area as we clean up the rim of Wild & Scenic Middle Deschutes River; 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; registration required; Rim of Wild & Scenic Middle Deschutes River, Mile Post 5, Lower Bridge Road, Terrebonne; eventbrite.com

**Earth Day Spring Cleaning:** Volunteers will be tasked with picking up garbage, painting over graffiti, pressure washing and more to clean up downtown alleyways with the potential to host future pop up events;

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The Spokesman uses recycled newsprint

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