

FROM CITY OF HOOD RIVER

COVID-19 lodging facility restrictions explained

This is the text of an email sent Friday to all City of Hood River Transient Rental Tax Certificate holders regarding the City Council-approved ban on discretionary, or recreational, overnight visits to Hood River:

"You likely have or will soon receive a letter dated March 25 that includes a copy of the Mayor's Emergency Declaration placing restrictions on transient lodging facilities. The City Council held a special meeting this morning ratifying the mayor's declaration via Resolution 2020-05. The city council also asked that the

following statement further explaining the policy intent of the declaration be sent out:

"The recent ban on hotel stays in the City of Hood River are designed to assist all of us in clamping down on recreational tourism and associated overnight stays as we work together to manage the containment and mitigation of COVID-19 in our community. We understand through communication with many local operators during the past 24-hours and with the Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association (ORLA) that lodging op-

erators will play an important role in the weeks ahead. The ban is intended specifically for leisure and non-essential travel, which is inappropriate at this time. We stand by our partners in making sure appropriate shelter is made available for essential workers still in the field, emergency situations, sheltering of vulnerable populations and sheltering of those quarantined because of COVID-19 exposure, and other accommodation needs which will result from our collective work in fighting COVID-19. We ask that you train your front-

line staff to identify legitimate reasons for an overnight stay and also to be diligent about identifying and turning away anyone wishing to stay due to leisure activities and for non-essential reason.

"For questions and information about this order, contact Will Norris, assistant city manager at w.norris@cityofhoodriver.gov or at 541-387-5214. This order coincides with the City of Hood River's declaration of emergency, which is in effect until April 14, unless extended by the city manager."

Earth Week organizers announce change to digital events

As the coronavirus pandemic upends life in the United States and makes public rallies and community events impossible, Columbia Gorge Climate Action Network (CGCAN), which had planned a series of earth-centered events for April, is announcing it will shift to digital outreach instead.

Gorge Earth Month will include daily inspirations, podcasts, live streaming events, conversations on digital platforms and suggestions on ways to confront the climate crisis. There will be numerous opportunities to get involved at www.CGCAN.org and on Facebook and Instagram.

"The fights against the coronavirus and the climate crisis go hand-in-hand," said Peter Cornelison with Friends of the Columbia Gorge. "As we work to flatten the curve of this pandemic, we must strive toward the longer-term goal of building a society that is better equipped to confront another global threat: the climate emergency."

Rev. John Boonstra, an organizer with CGCAN, said, "This is a chance for humanity to come together and begin to collectively reimagine the society, economy, and political

system we need to confront the challenges ahead of us. Gorge Earth Month is a great way to start this."

This year will mark the 50th anniversary of Earth Day on April 22. CGCAN is hosting Gorge Earth Month in partnership with other groups and individuals to celebrate the Earth and the Columbia River Gorge. CGCAN is made up of Gorge residents who are concerned about the causes of climate change and committed to actions that will make a difference.

Regular meetings of the group take place on the third Monday of each month and for the time being will be conducted using Zoom live streaming conferencing. The next meeting will be on April 20 and details on the meeting and Gorge Earth Month can be found at www.CGCAN.org.

Photo by John Phillips

'GNO CHANCES'

"I took a photo yesterday of my garden gnome, taking no chances," writes John Phillips of Hood River. "My neighbors got a big chuckle from this! Hope all is well!"



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