

Cottage Grove Sentinel

116 N. Sixth St.

Cottage Grove, Ore. 97424

Editor's Note:

Due to information received from the Lane County and its importance to the community, we are sharing it here in place of our normal Opinion page so that it can be included in its entirety with the communities we serve.

"I never considered a difference of opinion in politics, in religion, in philosophy, as cause for withdrawing from a friend." —Thomas Jefferson (1800)

Lane County services: Changes and Contact list in response to COVID-19

As Lane County continues to respond to COVID-19, it is making adjustments to how and when some services are available to the public.

These changes are intended to help safeguard the health of the county residents, as well as the health of county employees.

"We are facing a new and challenging reality in communities across the world," said Lane County Administrator Steve Mokrohisky. "Lane County is no exception. By adjusting our services and encouraging more people to take advantage of online resources, or to call us instead, we can practice the social distancing that is critical to slowing the spread of COVID-19.

"Additionally, we are identifying opportunities for employees to work remotely if their job duties allow, and reevaluating our policies regarding how our employees may use their paid time off and leave without pay."

A list of Lane County service changes and meeting cancellations is available at www.lanecountyor.gov and will be updated regularly. The county expect that changes will continue to be made as the situation in Oregon communities evolve.

"We recognize that some businesses and services have necessarily limited or stopped operating entirely, and we are working with our partners to help limit impacts to local businesses," said Mokrohisky. "Lane County provides critical public services to residents, businesses and the most vulnerable in our community.

"We are working to adjust the way our public servants deliver services to keep everyone safe. We appreciate that everyone is doing the best they can under these unprecedented circumstances,"

Current Service Changes:

- Board of County Commissioners
Phone: 541-682-4203
Email: lbcccom@lanecountyor.gov
Lane County Website: www.LaneCountyOR.gov/BCC

Assessment and Taxation:

Until further notice, the payment and public information counters of the Lane County Assessment & Taxation office will be closed. Assistance is available by phone Monday-Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. or by email.

The public information computers located in the lobby will still be accessible, but everything available on them can be found on the website.

Phone: 541-682-4321
Email: [countyor.gov
Website: \[www.LaneCountyOR.gov/AT\]\(http://www.LaneCountyOR.gov/AT\)](mailto:Assessor@lane-</p>
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Lane County Circuit Court:

The Courthouse will be open regular business hours through at least March 27. The Chief Justice has ordered restricted court proceedings effective March 19. Some proceedings will continue. Parties or attorneys should contact the court via phone for information about specific hearings.

Potential jurors who are in higher risk categories of severe illness may contact the court to reschedule their jury service. People at higher risk include: People 60 and older, with underlying health conditions including heart disease, lung disease, or diabetes, who have weakened immune systems or are pregnant.

If, at the time you are scheduled to appear for service, you are experiencing symptoms of acute respiratory illness, such as fever, please contact the court at the phone number provided on the jury summons to reschedule your service.
Phone: 541-682-4020
Website: www.courts.oregon.gov/courts/lane

County Clerk:

Elections: Closed to walk-ins. Services are available online, by phone or call and make an appointment only. Many elections services are available online.
Phone: 541-682-4234
Email: elections@lanecountyor.gov
Website: www.LaneCountyOR.gov/Elections

Deeds and Records:

Closed to walk-ins. Available by phone from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Most services available online or by phone.

Marriage licenses are available by mail or appointment only. No new marriage ceremonies will be scheduled.

Phone: 541-682-3654
Email: Recording@lanecountyor.gov
Website: www.LaneCountyOR.gov/Deeds

District Attorney:

Standard operating hours, 8 a.m. to noon, 1 to 5 p.m. Protective order clinics will continue. If you are planning to visit for any other reason, please call in advance.

Phone: 541-682-4261
Website: www.LaneCountyOR.gov/DA

Financial Services:

Standard operating hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Most services are available online or by phone. Please call to make an appointment for in person assistance. 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Phone: 541-682-4199
Email: [lanecountyor.gov
Website: \[www.LaneCountyOR.gov/Finance\]\(http://www.LaneCountyOR.gov/Finance\)](mailto:Robert.Tintle@</p>
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Health and Human Services:

Main Office Number: 541-682-4035
Community Health Centers: 541-682-3550
Preventative Dental Health Programs are suspended.
School Based Health Center – Springfield High School is suspended.
Website: www.LaneCountyOR.gov/CHC

Lane County Behavioral Health:

541-682-3608
Standard operating hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Client treatment groups and the Connection Center are suspended. Please call in advance of appointments. Most appointments will be done by phone.
Website: www.LaneCountyOR.gov/LCBH

Public Health:

541-682-4041
Standard operating hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Maternal and Child Health to include: Nurse-Family Partnership, Babies First, and CaCoon, and Healthy Families Oregon are providing all services via phone.

Enrollment is suspended for new clients with the exception of priority referrals received from OB/Midwifery or Pediatric Providers.
All client classes and gatherings are closed until further notice.

Communicable Disease: Standard operating hours.
Please call in advance.

Will prioritize urgent STI testing and services, the Just Checking clinic is suspended and vaccinations are being conducted on a very limited basis. Disease investigations will continue. Clients should call ahead for direction.

Environmental Health: Standard operating hours. Front desk is closed all services will be provided via phone or online.

WIC certifications: Standard operating hours. Interviews are still conducted in-person, per direction from the national office. All education classes are being conducted on-line.
Website: www.LaneCountyOR.gov/PublicHealth

Human Services Department:

541-682-3798
Standard operating hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Website: www.LaneCountyOR.gov/HSD

Veteran Services:

Call in only, no in-person visits.

Developmental Disabilities Services:

541-682-3695
Standard operating hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Please call in advance. Services are by appointment only.

Website: www.LaneCountyOR.gov/DevelopmentalDisabilitiesServices

Youth Services:

541-682-4700
Standard operating hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Detention: Community Youth Visits and Volunteer Youth Visits are canceled

Supervision: All non-essential face to face meetings and Technical Probation Violation Court hearings are canceled

Restorative Services: All non-essential face to face meetings and Family Check Ups are canceled

Nutrition Services: No new catering will be accepted

MLK Education: School MLK Education Center & Phoenix Program, Community Service and Vocational Programs:

Phoenix: No new admissions, No visitors under age of 12, No Volunteer visits, Only essential visitors as outlined by Oregon Health Authority
Website: www.LaneCountyOR.gov/YouthServices

Human Resources:

Standard operating hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Services are available online, by phone or call and make an appointment only.

Phone: 541-682-4290
Website: www.LaneCountyOR.gov/HR

Parole and Probation:

Standard operating hours, 8 a.m. to noon, 1 to 5 p.m. Some services can be done by phone or call and make an appointment.

Phone: 541-682-3040
Website: www.LaneCountyOR.gov/ParoleProbation

Public Works :

Customer Service Center is closed to the public. Services are still available online and by phone during standard business hours, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Phone: 541-682-6900
Website: www.LaneCountyOR.gov/PW

Animal Services:

Services are available online or by phone.
Phone: 541-682-3645
Website: www.LaneCountyOR.gov/Animals

Sheriff's Office:

Records requests should be made via online report portal, by phone, or by mail. No walk-in Concealed Handgun License customers; this service provided by appointment only, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Phone: 541-682-4150
Email: sheriffs.office@lanecountyor.gov
Website: www.LaneCountyOR.gov/Sheriff

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Letters to the Editor Policy

The Sentinel welcomes letters to the editor as part of a community discussion of issues on the local, state and national level.

Emailed letters are preferred. Handwritten or typed letters must be signed. All letters need to include full name, address and phone number; only name and city will be printed. Letters should be limited to about 300 words. Letters are subject to editing for length, grammar and clarity. Publication of any letter is not guaranteed and depends on space available and the volume of letters received.

Letters that are anonymous, libelous, argumentative, sarcastic or contain accusations that are unsourced or without documentation will not be published.

Letters containing poetry or from outside The Sentinel readership area will only be published at the discretion of the editor.

Political/Election Letters:

Election-related letters must address pertinent or timely issues of interest to our readers at-large.

Letters must: 1) Not be a part of letter-writing campaigns on behalf of (or by) candidates; 2) Ensure any information about a candidate is accurate, fair and not from second-hand knowledge or hearsay; and 3) explain the reasons to support candidates based on personal experience and perspective rather than partisanship and campaign-style rhetoric.

Candidates themselves may not use the letters to the editor column to outline their views and platforms or to ask for votes; this constitutes paid political advertising.

As with all letters and advertising content, the newspaper, at the sole discretion of the publisher, general manager and editor, reserves the right to reject any letter that doesn't follow the above criteria.

Send letters to:

nhickson@cgsentinel.com

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR REPS

Oregon state representatives

• **Sen. Floyd Prozanski**
District 4 State Senator
PO Box 11511
Eugene, Ore. 97440
Phone: 541-342-2447
Email: sen.floydprozanski@state.or.us

• **Rep. Cedric Hayden**
Republican District 7 State Representative
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Ore. 97301
Phone: 503-986-1407
Website: www.leg.state.or.us/hayden
Email: rep.cedrichayden@state.or.us

Oregon federal representatives

• **Rep. Peter DeFazio**
(House of Representatives)
405 East 8th Ave.
#2030
Eugene, Ore. 97401
Email: defazio.house.gov/contact/email-peter
Phone: 541-465-6732

• **Sen. Ron Wyden**
405 East 8th Ave., Suite 2020
Eugene, Ore. 97401
Email: wyden.senate.gov
Phone: (541) 431-0229

• **Sen. Jeff Merkley**
Email: merkley.senate.gov
Phone: 541-465-6750

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Call 541-942-3325 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

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