

Rural Organizing Project, SLSD launch donation drive for local youth

Drive for food and basic-needs items begins this week and will continue indefinitely

Rural Organizing Project, in partnership with the SLSD McKinney-Vento Program and energized by United Way, is launching a donation drive for food and basic-needs items to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on Cottage Grove youth.

All community members are invited to participate in the drive. Donations will be accepted on an ongoing basis on Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Thursdays from 4 to 6 p.m. at the

Rural Organizing Project, 623 E. Main St. in Cottage Grove.

Social distancing guidelines will be in effect.

Call 541-649-1169 for trunk pick-up or drop off items outside the door.

Jessica Campbell, Executive Director of the Rural Organizing Project, is organizing the drive because the organization cares deeply about equity and social justice.

"Cottage Grove is a community that shows up for

each other and helps our neighbors. We are proud to be partnering with SLSD to help however we can," Campbell, said.

According to Jade Chamness, SLSD McKinney-Vento Liaison, the community has shown incredible generosity towards students.

"This school year, the Cottage Grove community has helped us meet the needs of the nearly 280 SLSD students who have experienced housing instability," added Campbell.

"Today, we need your support more than ever. Help us help students so they can focus on their dreams."

Community members are invited to donate the following new items:

- Food: Perishable and non-perishable.
- Basic needs items: Hand sanitizer, masks, liquid soap, toilet paper, feminine hygiene items, diapers, wipes, shampoo and conditioner, liquid body soap.
- Cleaning supplies: Disinfectant wipes, cleaning

spray, paper towels.

• Gift cards: To local grocery stores and Walmart.

Donations may also be made online at <https://bit.ly/emergencygrocerygiftcards> or via check sent to the McKinney-Vento Program, SLSD Business Office, 455 Adams Ave., Cottage Grove, Ore. 97424.

Rural Organizing Project is a statewide network of 65 volunteer-led groups building stronger communities for everyone who calls rural Oregon home.

For more information about the donation drive, call 541-649-1169 or visit <https://rop.org>.

The McKinney-Vento Program is a federal program that ensures the rights of youth to go to school even when they are homeless or don't have a permanent address.

Contact Jade Chamness to request participation in the SLSD program or for more information at 541-735-5702 or jade.chamness@slane.k12.or.us.

LTD adjusts bus service schedule, routes for essential service workers

Lane Transit District (LTD) will make schedule adjustments on some of its routes to prevent overcrowding on buses due to social distancing orders initiated by Oregon Governor Kate Brown just a few weeks ago.

"LTD's schedule adjustment increases service on the bus routes where there are the most passengers making essential trips," said LTD's General Manager Aurora Jackson. "We expect these schedule adjustments to offer essential workers and those who

need to make essential trips more convenient bus service to get them where they need to go."

Based on social distancing requirements, LTD limits its 40-foot buses to 15 passengers and 60-foot buses to 20 passengers, which normally carry 50 and 80 passengers, respectively.

The LTD schedule adjustments went into effect on Monday, April 27, and will continue until further notice.

"With the exception of these new schedule adjust-

ments, LTD continues to offer mostly Sunday service, Monday through Saturday, and no bus service on Sunday," Jackson said. "We encourage those who must ride the bus to work or for groceries and medical appointments to check the LTD web site for schedule updates."

LTD's adjusted schedules are on EmX and Routes 11, 13, 24, 36, 40, 41, 51, 66, 67, 91, 92 & 96. Bus Routes 1, 12, 17, 18, 28, 52, 93, 95 and 98 will continue to operate on Sunday service, Monday through Saturday,

There continues to be no bus service until further notice on Routes 27, 33, 55, 73, 78, 79x, 81, 82 and 85.

There is currently no Sunday service on any LTD bus route.

LTD paratransit service, RideSource, continues to operate regular Sunday service Monday through Saturday for only essential trips. On Sundays, RideSource will operate a Sunday-level service for medically essential trips only.

Updated bus schedule information can be found online at [vice-alerts, or by calling LTD Customer Service at 541-687-5555.](http://LTD.org/ser-</p>
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As a reminder:

- All LTD passengers must enter and exit the bus through the rear doors, unless they are elderly or require use of the ramp at the front door.
- Passengers are required to cover their nose and mouth with a mask, bandana, or other covering while riding the bus to prevent the possible spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus. All LTD employees are required to wear masks

while operating buses or on LTD property.

• LTD employees continue to take measures to clean buses as they stop at the Eugene and Springfield stations.

All buses are cleaned nightly.

For a full list of the ways LTD is working to provide essential transportation while keeping employees and our community safe, visit the website at www.LTD.org <<https://owa.ltd.org/owa/www.LTD.org>.

Douglas County Commissioners reopen county courthouse to public

The Douglas County Board of Commissioners announced its decision to reopen the Douglas County Courthouse for public access, which began this past Monday, April 27.

The opening incorporates strict social distancing procedures for county employees, as well as for the public.

All county departments resumed normal hours of operation on Monday, with the exception of the fair-

grounds and museum due to the current COVID-19 orders from the governor.

Commissioners continue to urge citizens to follow the governor's executive orders to "Stay Home, Save Lives."

Citizens are encouraged to continue utilizing the county's online, email and phone systems as primary points of service.

For citizens who need to visit and conduct business at the courthouse, they are

strongly encouraged to call the office beforehand to schedule an appointment.

Departmental contact information is listed on the county's website.

Follow posted guidelines for department and building use in regards to entering offices, standing in line, gathering and keeping distance from others.

Hands-free sanitizers will be available at the main entrances to the courthouse,

and each individual department will have hand sanitizer and masks available for the public.

Douglas County Commissioners have made changes over the past few weeks to all County Departments in order to enforce strict physical distancing guidelines which include:

- Expanding work station spacing in office areas.
- Prohibiting gatherings and close work proximity.

• Canceling all unnecessary meetings.

• Installing Plexiglas sneeze guards in departments that work with the public.

• Organizing staggered work and break schedules for employees.

• Determining office traffic patterns for employees and visitors.

• Obtaining a supply of masks for employees and visitors (as needed).

• Performing daily cleaning and disinfecting of touched surfaces such as desks, counters, door knobs, push/pull fixtures, hand rails, bathrooms and locks.

Douglas County has also reopened its park reservation lines, so patrons can start making future reservations.

Call 541-957-7001 for more information.



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We are grateful for those who have our back in this important time. The list is long, but we want to thank our first responders and front-line workers.

Especially in critical times, **newspapers have your back.** COVID-19 is a national story that is impacting you at home and at work. Your local newspaper is keeping you informed with current events in your neighborhood and is bringing communities together in these challenging times.

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