

Be on lookout for stimulus check-related scams

There's been a flood of information and updates about the government's economic impact payments, or "stimulus checks."

But quickly and safely moving massive amounts of money into the hands of those who need it is a big job with a lot of moving parts.

The more you know about the process, the less likely you're going to be tripped up by calls, text messages or emails from scammers trying to steal your money or personal information.

Here's what you need to

know about the stimulus payments and how to avoid scams related to these payments.

Who will get money?

Adult U.S. residents that meet established income limits are eligible to receive money from the government. This includes:

- Taxpayers—people who filed a federal tax return for 2018 or 2019.
- Retirees—people who get Social Security, Railroad, or other retirement benefits.
- Beneficiaries—people who get public benefits like

SSDI, disability or veterans' benefits.

• Non-filers—people who do not have to file a federal tax return, including people who made no income or made less than \$12,200 (or \$24,400 for married couples).

What to do

Most people don't have to do anything to get their money because the IRS will use the same payment method — direct deposit, Direct Express debit card, or paper check — used to send you your tax refund, Social Se-

curity, retirement, or other government benefits money. If the IRS doesn't have your direct deposit information, you can go to the "Get My Payment" feature at irs.gov/coronavirus and let them know where to send your direct deposit.

If you don't usually file a tax return, go to irs.gov/coronavirus to access the "Non-filer" portal and to figure out what, if anything, you have to do to claim your money.

To check on the status of your payment, you can now

use the "Get My Payment" feature at irs.gov/coronavirus.

Avoid Coronavirus stimulus payment scams

Scammers are using these stimulus payments to try to rip people off. They might try to get you to pay a fee to get your stimulus payment. Or they might try to convince you to give them your Social Security number, bank account, or government benefits debit card account number.

Tips for avoiding a Coronavirus stimulus payment

scam

- Only use irs.gov/coronavirus to submit information to the IRS, and never in response to a call, text, or email.
- You don't have to pay to get your stimulus money.
- The IRS won't tell you to deposit your stimulus check then send them money back because they paid you more than they owed you. That's a fake check scam.
- Report scams to the Federal Trade Commission at ftc.gov/complaint.

City *from A1*

According to City Manager Richard Meyers, the equipment includes Level 2 chargers with SAE J1772 plugs, which are standard plugs for all electric vehicles. Stations are expected to charge vehicles at 25 miles per hour.

Health insurance coverage

Councilors unanimously elected to continue paying the city's share of health insurance coverage for full-time employees who will be laid off May 2.

The coverage of 15 part-time and five full-time employees will continue until the layoff period ends and is expected to cost about \$6,800 per month if current contribution amounts remain.

Because full-time employees will have one day of work in May, the workers will continue to receive coverage through the rest of the month. After May 31, these workers would still be eligible for coverage under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act health insurance program, though they would be responsible for the entire premium.

Councilors discussed

assisting with these premium costs by continuing the city's share of coverage at a previous council meeting.

"I'm anticipating that we will be closed until the end of August," said Meyers when asked about the length of coverage.

In other city council news:

• The city council unanimously voted to award the Safe Routes to School and Fillmore stormwater outfall projects to lowest bidder Wildish Construction Co., who submitted an estimate of about \$3,487,000.

Wildish Construction's

bid came in more than \$2 million under the engineer's estimate for the projects. Barring protest, the award will be finalized on May 4. In a related move, the council voted to purchase property necessary construct a new outfall and bioswale as part of the Fillmore project.

• Summer performances from the Eugene Symphony and the US Air Force Band of the Golden Wes have both canceled due to concerns related to COVID-19.

• The city is reopening Middlefield Golf Course on the morning of May 1.

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PURPOSE
This survey is a collaborative effort between the University of Oregon School of Planning, Public Policy, and Management, Lane Transit District, the City of Cottage Grove, and the City of Creswell to understand and improve the transportation challenges and opportunities in your community.

DETAILS
This survey will take about 5 minutes and participants will be entered in a drawing to win a \$50 Visa cash card. The completion deadline is May 3.

QUESTIONS / CONCERNS
Email Dr. Anne Brown at the University of Oregon at abrown33@uoregon.edu.

Thank you for your time!

SURVEY LINK

<https://bit.ly/2ydLEXy>

Logos for Lane Transit District, University of Oregon, City of Cottage Grove, and City of Creswell.

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