

Historical Society to host summer scavenger hunt

The Cottage Grove Historical Society has announced that it will be sponsoring a scavenger hunt this summer.

The hunt is designed for families but is open to everyone.

All locations are local and outside to accommodate social distancing guidelines. Instructions are included at the historical society's website at https://cghistory.org/images/2020_Scavenger_Hunt.pdf.

It has been organized and funded by Cottage Grove area Partners in History. Organizers hope the community and visitors alike will enjoy this free local activity.

All forms must be submitted by July 31 to be entered into the drawing for a family dinner (\$150 gift certificate) at a local restaurant.

Each tagged social media post will add an entry in the drawing and increase your families chance at winning so don't forget to post using the hashtag #CGHistory-Hunt.

Local caregivers group to meet July 13

The Caregiver Network of Cottage Grove will meet Monday, July 13, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Guest speaker will be speech pathologist Nancy Vasilakes.

The group meets at 1200 E. Quincy in Cottage Grove.

For more information, contact Shirley at 541-232-0966.

Hospitals across Oregon support statewide order requiring face coverings

With a rapid rise in COVID-19 cases, Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (OAHHS) urges Oregonians to wear face coverings to fight the spread.

Last week, Becky Hultberg, President and CEO of the OAHHS, released the following statement in support of Governor Kate Brown's statewide

public face covering requirement:

"The Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems stands in support of Governor Kate Brown's statewide public face covering requirement. We know that when we all make the choice to wear a face covering in public, we are doing our part to prevent the spread of

COVID-19.

"With cases on the rise rapidly across the state, it is now more important than ever to take this step to protect our loved ones, our neighbors, and our communities.

"Further, if we are to coexist alongside the disease, wide adoption of public face coverings is an essential factor in

keeping our businesses and public spaces open.

"OAHHS urges all Oregonians to wear a face covering in public, and to help reinforce this critical message by talking to your friends and family about the importance of wearing a face covering in public."

Oregon Health Plan online application system receives upgrade

The Oregon Department of Human Services and the Oregon Health Authority recently upgraded the eligibility system Oregonians use to apply for health coverage.

The upgrade is the first milestone in a larger project to make it easier for Oregonians to apply for health and human services benefits.

The online application was unavailable from July 2-5 while the upgrade was in progress.

Online applications that were not submitted by 4 p.m. on July

2 were not able to be transferred to the new system during the upgrade and will have to be restarted.

For Oregonians applying for Oregon Health Plan benefits online, applications can now be completed on the new system. Paper applications and applications completed over the phone are not impacted.

Oregonians can contact customer service at 1-800-699-9075 (TTY 711) to apply over the phone or request that an application be mailed to them.

They can also download, print and mail a paper application. Both options are available in multiple languages.

The Oregon ONE system will continue to be upgraded, in phases, through February 2021. Once the system is fully updated, all Oregonians will be able to use a single online application to apply for cash, childcare, food and medical benefits.

They will also have the option to apply for any of these programs over the phone or in person at any local Aging and

People with Disabilities, Area Agency on Aging or Self-Sufficiency Programs office that provides those benefits.

"This upgrade is just the first step in improving the way the state delivers health and human services benefits to Oregonians and their families," said DHS Director Fariborz Pakseresh.

Visit the DHS Benefits and Assistance page to learn more about the programs available to qualifying Oregonians.

State Farm announces \$25k 'Neighborhood Assistance' relief-grant

Matt Bjornn, agent for State Farm, recently announced that State Farm "Neighborhood Assist" is back for its ninth year in 2020.

This year, \$25,000 in grants is being offered at a time when non-profits and the communities they serve need it most. Due to the many challenges facing the nation, State Farm is removing all category requirements for submissions this year. This action will free up communities to submit causes to address their greatest needs.

The program will continue to award \$25,000 grants to 40 nonprofit organizations to help fund neighborhood im-

provement projects. According to a recent State Farm research study, one-quarter of respondents say that they are "extremely" or "very" involved in trying to improve their neighborhood and 6-in-10 are trying to improve their neighborhood in some capacity.

Here's how the program works:

- Submission Phase: Starts July 15 and ends when 2,000 submissions are reached. Individuals can submit a cause at www.neighborhoodassist.com starting July 15.

Prepare now by going to the website and downloading the submission guide. Once 2,000

submissions have been received, the State Farm Review Committee will then narrow the field to the Top 200 finalists using a scoring rubric.

- Voting Phase: Sept. 23 through Oct. 2. Ultimately, voters will decide which community improvement projects will receive grants.

The public will have a chance to vote 10 times a day, every day, for 10 days between Sept. 23 and Oct. 2 from the list of finalists.

Voting can be done online at www.neighborhoodassist.com.

- Winners announced: Winners will be announced Nov. 4 at www.neighborhoodassist.com.

com, with the 40 causes that receive the most votes each win a \$25,000 grant.

"Grant programs that address community needs like Neighborhood Assist are more important than ever," said Bjornn. "This initiative truly embodies the spirit of being a Good Neighbor."

Last year, 163,000 people cast 4.4 million votes in support of their favorite causes, selecting winners from small towns and big cities.

Since the program began, State Farm has awarded \$8 million in support of more than 300 causes.

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