

City announces small business emergency grant program

Cottage Grove has joined the partnership with Lane County and cities throughout the county to offer Small Business Emergency Grants for businesses impacted by COVID-19.

The grants are available for businesses with 25 or fewer employees. Small businesses can submit applications for the County Grant program between Oct. 5 and 7.

More information about the Lane County Grant program and application forms are available at the Community Lending Works webpage at www.communitylendingworks.org.

The Cottage Grove/Biz Oregon Grant program resulted in 15 grants for a total of \$40,000 in grants to small businesses in the community. Two businesses have taken advantage of the

Cottage Grove Business loan program for total of \$20,000. The city has closed the grant program and moved the remaining City funds to the Lane County program.

The loan program is still available and information can be found on the Community Lending Works webpage.

South Lane School District Youth Advisory Council seeks participants

Any youth between 7th and 12th grades living within the South Lane School District boundaries that would like to participate in the Cottage Grove Youth Advisory Council are invited to contact the City Manager's office.

Recruitment and YAC activities for 2020-21 will be different than previous years. But it should be an interesting and worthwhile experience.

If you know of any youth that might be interested in learning more about local government encourage them to give the City Manager's office a call 541-942-5501 or email the City Manager at citymanager@cottage-grove.org.

Project *from A10*

anywhere from 2nd to 8th," said Kimball. "And we're working against cities that are off of fresh springs."

Kimball cites the low turbidity of the plant's water, measured by NTUs (Nephelometric Turbidity Units), as a major factor in its quality.

Turbidity is the cloudiness or haziness of a fluid caused by large numbers of individual particles and measurement of it is key to determining water quality.

"High turbidity can cause problems because it can interact with chlorine's ability to disinfect," said Kimball, adding he's been proud of the plant's numbers.

"The treatment is so

effective that the water going out is just incredibly pure and clean," he said. "The only thing we would like to do different is, in the summertime there's a little bit of taste to the water that comes from organics in the water that die off."

Minerals like iron and manganese naturally accumulate in the city's water system and, though still considered safe to drink, can cause a yellow tint to appear in residents' tap water.

The mineral deposits can be scoured through a flushing process, however the city had until last year not been meeting the once-a-year minimum recommendation of this process.

Several complaints from Cottage Grove residents surfaced last September about a hazy

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—Water Production Superintendent Ryan Kimball

discoloration in people's tap water.

City officials maintained that the water had passed quality tests and attributed the discoloration to a spike in house fires that had recently swept through the city.

The discoloration may show up in residents' tap water when large quantities of water are used, such as in fighting fires and summertime plant watering, city officials said. This heavy usage can stir up the mineral deposits in the lines and get into household plumbing systems.

The city has since made flushing of city quadrants part of a weekly routine, a move Kimball applauded.

"Everything's getting hit at least once a month, if not more," he said.

Pathogens, too, are unlikely to find their way through the system.

"Those membranes can handle quite a bit,"

said Kimball.

Though Dorena Lake will often play host to blue-green algae blooms, Kimball said the resulting cyanotoxins have never made it as far down as the plant's intake.

In any case, the .1-micron pores in the system's filaments prevent the most worrisome of organisms from breaking through.

The size of the giardia parasite, for example, is typically between 8 to 14 microns and a pathogen such as *Naegleria fowleri*, the brain-eating amoeba which recently killed youths in Florida and Texas, would also easily be caught by the system.

Though the city's first two racks are more than a decade old, Kimball assured that the plant's "aggressive" maintenance routines will keep the technology running for some time without need for replacement.

"They're still functioning as if almost new. We've had very, very few issues," he said. "We're not going to be having any issues with them for a long time to come."

The expansion project is slated to be completed in mid-December.



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