

City from A1

workforce, manufactures its shelters to be an efficient, safe and affordable option for temporary cottage-style housing.

Taking only about 30 minutes to set up, the insulated shelters can be snapped together on site and include amenities such as electrical connections, heat, windows, beds, mattress and a door which locks from the inside.

The units can also be easily unassembled and stored on a pallet when not in use.

“These structures can be taken apart and put back together time and time again,” said City Manager Richard Meyers.

Made from aluminum and plastic composite materials, the shelters are resistant to rot, durable and easy to disinfect for day-to-day use.

Meyers personally attested to the shelters’ durability after entering a unit.

“I was expecting the walls to flex. I was expecting the floors to bounce. It didn’t,” he said.

Pallet lists its shelters as being used in several sites up and down the West Coast, Hawaii and other states. Many cities have reported benefits to their use.

The shelters come in two sizes: 64 and 100 square feet. The city has approved the purchase of 15 of the smaller units and three of the large.

To pay for the shelters, the city can access its

Federal Coronavirus Relief Fund, some \$100,000 which must be spent before the end of the year. The city is also expecting assistance from Lane County which will fully cover the capital costs to prepare the site and infrastructure.

Pallet Shelters run about \$5,000 for small units and \$7,500 for the larger ones, making the purchase of the units in themselves around \$100,000. Additional need for other facilities may add another \$20,000 to \$30,000 to the cost, said Meyers on Monday’s Beeper Show.

Lane County currently has access to more than 100 Pallet Shelters, said Meyers, and can release them to the city immediately.

The proposed space for the shelters in Cottage Grove is a city lot behind the post office on N. 12th Street where there are already electric, water and sewage connections available, he said.

Under the plan, the lot would be fenced off and include portable toilets, handwashing stations and canopies to protect the facilities.

The proposed idea will allow Beds for Freezing Nights to continue operations under its normal seasonal schedule, beginning Nov. 15 and the structures coming down for storage after March 31.

In acquiring volunteers, the City of Cottage Grove also plans to pursue funding from Lane County which could be used provide an employee

to oversee the operation, a position which would be filled through Community Sharing.

At Monday’s city council meeting, Councilor Kenneth Roberts said the Knights of Columbus could offer support through volunteers as well.

Community input has been overwhelmingly supportive of the idea.

Local resident Rob Dickinson spoke in favor of the move at the virtual city council meeting.

“It’s very important that we provide some sort of shelter for the unhoused, especially during a pandemic, and the Pallet Shelters seem like a pretty good option,” he said. “It seems an economical, quick and high-quality solution.”

Cottage Village Coalition President Bruce Kelsh echoed the support, citing his work with the logistical side of arranging space for Beds for Freezing Nights.

“I think it has tremendous advantages over sharing a large room with everyone breathing in it all night long, which is simply not safe during COVID times,” he said. “Whereas I find the individual cabins a really good solution for dealing with the issue of providing a shelter for people that’s warm, safe and secure.”

The Pallet Shelters may also serve as a long-term solution for other uses such as emergency housing, providing a chance to enhance emergency preparedness in the community.

“These could be used if

a neighborhood had a fire and we needed housing,” said Meyers, “or if we had a huge snowstorm and Red Cross came in because people didn’t have power, we could set those up.”

In addition, new availability may open up for some during freezing nights compared to the previous model.

“We’re moving away from a congregate shelter to a cottage shelter,” said Meyers on the Beeper Show on Monday, adding that the cottage model gets around the Beds for Freezing Nights’ restrictions on mixed-gender sheltering and unaccompanied youth.

The new model would open opportunities for youth, allow families seeking shelter to stay together and even accommodate for pets.

During the city council meeting, Councilor Candace Solesbee brought up concerns from constituents who have reported negative experiences in areas close to such shelters. Meyers drew a contrast to Medford’s “urban campground” project, which the Pallet Shelter plan is not meant to follow.

“We want to do something a little more dignified and a little more respectful,” he said.

Beds for Freezing Nights Board President Ruth Linoz pointed out that the group’s criterion for activation is 29 degrees or below because it encourages priority use of Eugene’s Egan Warming Center and reduces the shelter-seeking traffic from outside areas.

“And if they’re staying closed, we don’t open just to avoid that dynamic,” she said.

With county funds, the Pallet Shelter set-up will also likely be required to include a check-in component, Linoz said, which serves as a deterrent for some.

In addition to the Pallet Shelter project, the City of Cottage Grove and Community Sharing have partnered to acquire a mobile shower/restroom trailer, which is due to arrive in 12 to 14 weeks.

The trailer comes with two shower/restroom combinations and is intended to be used to address various needs throughout the community, including emergency situations, festivals and people without access to such facilities.

Community Sharing volunteers will be operating the trailer.

Councilor Mike Fleck, who is executive director of Community Sharing, said he did not anticipate any monetary transaction between the city and the nonprofit, but declared a potential conflict of interest as a precaution.

In other city council news:

- City Manager Annual Performance Review —

The city council voted to renew the contract of City Manager Richard Meyers following an overwhelmingly positive review from the city council. Meyers’ compensation was also increased commensurate with 2020-21 fiscal year salary adjustment recommendations for department heads with 2 percent COLA/wage adjustment plus a 2.5 percent stipend for the PERS state employee pension stability account.

Now coming into his 24th year in the role, Mey-

ers expressed his appreciation for the job.

“Every year is different,” he said. “This is year by far exceeds the other years for being different, but it’s still a pleasure working for the council and continuing to do things to make Cottage Grove an even better place.”

Councilors spoke glowingly of Meyers’ performance.

“This is the best review I’ve given Richard under some of the toughest times,” said Councilor Mike Fleck. “I just want to commend Richard and his staff. They do an excellent job running our city and I’m proud to be part of this organization as well.”

Councilor Jake Boone referenced his own range of experiences with other cities as president of the League of Oregon Cities and spoke of Meyers’ as a unique asset.

“We in Cottage Grove are really spoiled to have Richard here,” he said. “We’re really lucky to have him and we want to keep him as long we can possibly get him to stay.”

- Land Purchase —

The city council voted to redesignate and rezone a 3.04-acre parcel under city ownership along the east bank of the Coast Fork of the Willamette River adjacent to Lincoln Middle School to Parks and Open Space/PR Parks and Recreation District.

The parcel’s new designation will allow a trail to be developed along the river northward from E Hayes Ave.

A continuation of the trail to Sixth St. may be established over time.

Worship Directory

COTTAGE GROVE:
6th & Gibbs Church of Christ
 195 N. 6th St. • 541-942-3822
 10:00am
 Christian Education: Pre-K through 5th
 Tim Baker, Senior Minister
 www.6thandgibbs.com

First Presbyterian Church
 3rd and Adams St
 541-942-4479
 Rev.: Karen Hill
 Worship: 10:00am
 Sunday School: 10:00am
 fpcgrove.com

For weekday and Holy Day of Obligation schedule see website OLPHCG.net
 Confession: 4 PM to 5 PM
 Saturdays or by appointment
 St. Philip Benizi, Creswell
 552 Holbrook Lane
 Sunday 8 am

Calvary Baptist Church
 77873 S 6th St • 541-942-4290
 Pastor: Riley Hendricks
 Sunday School: 9:45am
 Worship: 11:00am
 The Journey: Sunday 5:00pm
 Praying Thru Life: Wednesday 6:00pm

Hope Fellowship
 United Pentecostal Church
 100 S. Gateway Blvd.
 541-942-2061
 Pastor: Dave Bragg
 Worship: 11:00am Sunday
 Bible Study: 7:00pm Wednesday
 www.hopefellowshipupcc.com
 “FINDING HOPE IN YOUR LIFE”

St. Andrews Episcopal Church
 1301 W. Main • 541-767-9050
 Rev. Lawrence Crumb
 “Church with the flags.”
 Worship: Sunday 10:30am
 All Welcome

Church of Christ
 420 Monroe St • 541-942-8565
 Sunday Service: 10:30am

Hope In The Grove Baptist Church
 77820 Mosby Creek Rd
 Pastor: Wayne Husk
 Worship: Sunday 10:00am
 Evening Bible Study: Wednesday 6:30pm
 541.649.1043

Seventh-day Adventist Church
 820 South 10th Street
 541-942-5213
 Pastor: Kevin Miller
 Bible Study: Saturday, 9:15 am
 Worship Service: Saturday, 10:40
 Mid-week Service: Wednesday, 1:00

Cottage Grove Bible Church
 1200 East Quincy Avenue
 541-942-4771
 Pastor: Bob Singer
 Worship 11am
 Sunday School: 9:45am
 AWANA age 3-8th Grade,
 Wednesdays Sept-May, 6:30pm
 www.cgbible.org

Living Faith Assembly
 467 S. 10th St. • 541-942-2612
 Worship Services Sundays: 9a & 11a
 Youth Worship Sundays: 11a (all ages welcome)
 Mondays: 5:30p (6th-12th grades)

Trinity Lutheran Church
 6th & Quincy • 541-942-2373
 Pastor: James L. Markus
 Sunday School & Adult Education 9:15am
 Sunday Worship 10:30 am
 Comm. Kitchen Free Meal Tue & Thur 5:00pm TLC Groups
 tlccg.com

Cottage Grove Faith Center
 33761 Row River Rd.
 541-942-4851
 Lead Pastor: Kevin Prueff
 www.cg4.tv
 Full Children’s Ministry available
 Services: 9:00am & 10:45am

Non-Denominational Church of Christ
 1041 Pennoyer Ave
 541-942-8928
 Preacher: Tony Martin
 Sunday Bible Study: 10:00am
 Sunday Worship: 10:50am & 5:30pm
 www.pennoyeravecoc.com

United Methodist Church
 334 Washington 541-942-3033
 Worship 10am
 umcgrove.org

Delight Valley
 Church of Christ
 33087 Saginaw Rd. East
 541-942-7711 • Pastor: Bob Friend
 Two Services:
 9am - Classic in the Chapel
 10:30am - Contemporary in the Auditorium

Old Time Gospel Fellowship
 103 S. 5th St. • 541-942-4999
 Pastor: Jim Edwards
 Sunday Service: 10:00am
 Join in Traditional Christian Worship

“VICTORY” Country Church
 913 S. 6th Street • 541-942-5913
 Pastor: Barbara Dockery
 Worship Service: 10:00am
 Message: “WE BELIEVE IN MIRACLES”

First Baptist Church
 301 S. 6th st • 541-942-8242
 Pastor: David Chhangle
 Sunday School 9:30am
 Worship Service 10:30am
 Youth Wednesday 6:30pm
 cgfirstbaptist.com

Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Philip Benizi Catholic Churches
 1025. N. 19th St.
 541-942-3420
 Father John J. Boyle
 Holy Mass:
 Saturday Vigil - 5:30 pm
 Sunday - 10:30 am

CRESWELL: Creswell Presbyterian Church
 75 S 4th S • 541-895-3419
 Rev. Seth Wheeler
 Adult Sunday School 9:15am
 Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
 website www.creswellpres.org

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