

# Cottage Grove Est. 1889 Sentinel



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**WEATHER**

AM clouds and PM sun with a high of 87 and a low tonight of 55.  
Full forecast on A5

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Music and dance beat the heat  
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## Cottage Village celebrates tiny homes completion

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
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An energetic community turned out to celebrate the completion of the last four houses of Cottage Village's 13-home project on Tuesday. The open house event allowed attendees to wander through tiny homes as the crowd was treated to barbecue and speeches of gratitude.

"It's just been incredible work as we seek to help households and families secure, permanent, safe, affordable, wonderful, decent, lovely housing," said SquareOne Executive Director Dan Bryant, praising the work done by staff and volunteers. "Because every person deserves a home."

SquareOne's stated goal is to create self-managed communities of cost-effective tiny homes for people with low incomes in need of housing.



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/CG SENTINEL

Staff, residents and stakeholders turned out for the open house event at Cottage Village, celebrating the completion of the tiny homes with a ribbon cutting.

see HOME on A9

## Cooling off the community



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/CG SENTINEL

Though still under construction, the Cottage Grove Community Center opened over the weekend as a cooling center, providing the public with respite from the heat. A total of 32 people took advantage of the air conditioning and refreshments over two days which saw temperatures soar above 100 degrees. The majority of drop-ins were people without shelter, said Community Coordinator Teresa Cowan, but those without air conditioning in their homes made use of the center as well.



## City adopts 2021-22 budget

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
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The Cottage Grove City Council unanimously approved the city's 2021-22 budget on June 28, just in time for its June 30 deadline.

Only Councilor Jon Stinnett was absent from the meeting.

Monday's resolution to adopt the budget contained changes that had been proposed by staff and requested by the public since the proposed budget was approved with changes by the Budget Committee in May. The changes increased the budget from the approved amount by \$335,470, bringing the total to \$40,320,743 for the 2021-22 fiscal year.

The adopted budget restores nearly all city positions which were laid off during the COVID-19 lockdown last year and adds some positions, such as an assistant superintendent at the Middlefield Golf Course.

Changes to the general fund included an increase of franchise fees in the amount of \$45,500 while grant revenues increased by \$162,210.

The general fund increased a total of \$207,710 overall since its approval by the Budget Committee.

In the Development Department, personnel changes were proposed in the amount of \$12,505 with the elimination of the assistant city planner position and the addition of a city planner position.

Also within the Development Department, a line item was added which will see the city partner with Oregon RAIN in at least a two-year entrepreneurial development program in the amount of \$21,000 for initial-year funding.

Oregon RAIN is a non-profit which partners with

see BUDGET on A10

## Oregon '100 percent open for business'

Governor signs order to lift all remaining COVID-19 restrictions issued under emergency statutes

By CHANTELE MEYER  
FOR THE SENTINEL

On Friday, Oregon Gov. Kate Brown signed an executive order that lifts Oregon's risk level framework and all remaining COVID-19 health and safety restrictions that have been issued under Oregon's emergency statutes. The order went into effect yesterday, June 30.

"We will lift the safety protocols we have relied on and reopen our economy," Brown said. "That means no more statewide mask mandates in most settings, no required capacity limits, and no required physical distancing. It means, effectively, Oregon is 100 percent open for business."

The governor signed the recovery-focused executive order as the state neared its a 70 percent first dose adult vaccination rate. More than 2.3 million Oregonians have been vaccinated, and Brown said she was proud of the effort.

"It is because of this success that we can move Oregon forward, and into the next chapter of this pandemic. We are ready," Brown said. As of Monday, the number of

adult Oregonians needing vaccinations to reach the 70 percent threshold was 19,147, Oregon Health Authority reported. The seven-day running average is 7,352 doses per day.

"We should all take pride in the work we have done to bring us to this moment. The efforts underway to close our vaccine equity gap and reach every Oregonian with information and a vaccine have definitely helped bring us this far. Thank you to all who are going the extra mile to vaccinate Oregonians," Brown said.

To help improve the vaccination rate, Oregon joined other states in creating an incentive campaign to encourage people to "Take Your Shot, Oregon." The campaign sought to promote COVID-19 vaccinations and ended on June 27.

Everyone who received at least one vaccination shot in Oregon was automatically entered, with the exception of some state government employees and their families.

One Oregonian 18 and older will win the \$1 million prize, while 36

see OPEN on A8

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