



Financially Surviving COVID-19

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic will reach far beyond the immediate medical concerns we have been experiencing over the last few weeks. The impact is being felt by business owners, their employees and their customers. Please help support our local businesses. To find a list of those still open for business and what they provide, go to your Central Point Chamber of Commerce facebook page (CentralPointChamber) and website (centralpointchamber.org). They are providing resource links (towards the bottom of the page) to assist businesses through this challenging time.

The Central Point Chamber has kept a list of restaurants who have been able to stay open. The list will provide hours of operation, if they have curbside pickup, or delivery.

The City of Central Point website has links for all the latest news in the County, State and Nation. We have linked pages for Economic Injury Disaster Loans, Workshare, and the Paycheck Protection program.

Many Americans lack an emergency fund to cover financial emergencies such as we are currently seeing with the orders to Stay Home we are required to follow. Some steps to take, if you find yourself facing financial difficulty in the coming months are:

1. Contact your creditors: Do this as soon as you realize you may have a problem and before you have missed a payment. Even if you have heard that they are not charging fees right now, let them know you are struggling. They may have programs in place to help, but they need to know which customers need that help.
2. Switch to an Emergency Budget: Take a good look at your budget and determine where you can free up some funds or cut back on items.
3. Utilize your Emergency Fund: If you have an emergency fund, try to use it sparingly. Once you are back at work, be sure to save a small amount each pay cycle to re-establish or start your emergency fund.

Stay home, Stay safe, Stay healthy



Central Point Events

Central Point Parks and Recreation is committed to providing our community with beautiful parks, exciting recreation classes and amazing events. In these uncertain times we appreciate the support and flexibility of our community. With that we know that some classes, events and parks will see schedule changes or closures. We will update all changes on our social media accounts as well as the City's Website. We are also available by email at parcs@centralpointoregon.gov and during our business hours by phone at 541-664-3321 x130.

May, 2020

www.centralpointoregon.gov



What counts as “suspicious”?

In law enforcement, we get a lot of calls regarding suspicious activity but what does that mean and what types of things does one look for when determining if something is suspicious? Here are a few examples of suspicious activities to keep an eye out for.

- Someone screaming or shouting for help
- Someone looking into windows and parked cars
- Unusual noises
- Property being taken out of closed businesses or houses where no one is home
- Cars, vans, or trucks moving slowly with no apparent destination or without lights
- Anyone being forced into a vehicle
- A stranger sitting in a car or stopping to talk to a child
- An individual carrying electronics and equipment through a residential area
- Someone driving and appearing to “scope” out the place
- Unusual activity for your neighborhood
- A person walking with two bicycles
- Someone ringing multiple doorbells to see if residents are home

If you encounter something “suspicious” that you believe rises to the level of police investigation even if it’s not mentioned above, please call our non-emergency phone number of 541-664-5578 during regular business hours or 541-776-7206 during after-hours.



Avista reminds you safe digging is no accident

Before beginning any outdoor digging project, call 811 at least two business days before you dig. Calling 811 will get a professional locator to your site to mark the approximate location of underground utility lines. There is a two-foot tolerance zone on each side of the line, and it is required to hand dig to determine the precise location of the utility in this tolerance zone. This service is free. Remember, you may have your own utilities that require a Private Locate request at 811.

Knowing where underground utility lines are buried before you dig will help protect you from injury, prevent damages to utilities and service disruptions, and avoid potential fines and repair costs. Underground utility lines can be just about anywhere, so keeping your shovel in the shed or garage and calling 811 first is a smart move (and it’s *the law*).

Every digging job requires a call — even small projects like planting trees and shrubs. The depth of utility lines varies and there may be multiple utility lines in a common area. Here are just a few examples of when to call:

- *Installing a rural mailbox*
- *Putting in a fence*
- *Planting a tree or shrubbery*
- *Building a patio or deck*
- *Excavating a new garden area*

Call 811 or go to
www.digsafelyoregon.com

Color Codes

The utilities will be identified by painted marks or flags within twenty-four inches on either side of the utility line.

	Electric
	Gas, Oil, Fuel
	Cable, TV, Telephone
	Drinking Water
	Sewer
	Non-Drinking Water
	Survey Marks
	Excavator Marks

Building Department Q&A



Spring is coming and for many, this is the time to tackle home improvements and all those deferred maintenance projects. Every year around this time, we receive many inquiries regarding what does or does not require a building permit. Keep in mind that the Planning Department must approve setbacks for construction/placement of all structures. Here are several common questions:



Q. How big of a storage building may I construct or install without a building permit?

A. The building code exempts one-story detached accessory structures used as tool/storage sheds, playhouses, etc., provided the floor area does not exceed 200 square feet. For buildings without walls, the area is calculated by roof projection area. Setbacks from the property lines are required to meet City codes. A permit for any electrical, plumbing or mechanical installation is required for these otherwise exempt structures. Exemption from requiring a permit is not authorization for any work to be done in violation of the Oregon Residential Specialty Code.

Q. Do I need a permit to install siding?

A. Typically, No. Removing the existing siding provides an excellent opportunity to inspect the existing exterior walls for substandard insulation, wiring, framing and water or insect intrusions, which could be mitigated at that time. However, if you are merely applying new siding over existing subsiding, no permit is required on a residence. Commercial structures do require a permit to install new siding.



Q. Do I need a permit to install a portable metal carport?

A. If the structure is over 200 square feet it requires a building permit. These structures also require engineering to verify that they meet the 25 pounds-per-square-foot roof snow loading and wind design requirements for the City of Central Point. Zoning setbacks prohibit placement of metal carports and other temporary structures in front yards.

Q. Is a permit required for replacing windows?

A. Yes and no. A permit is not required for replacing windows that are the same size as the original windows. However, if the window opening will be wider and require new framing, then you must get a building permit. The replacement windows must not negatively affect the emergency egress (exit) of the current window. Replacement windows may actually increase the egress functionality. Safety glazing may be required to comply with building code changes made since the original windows were installed. The replacement windows must also meet minimum Energy Efficiency requirements of the Oregon Residential Specialty Code.

Q. Is a building permit required to reroof my house? How many layers of shingles can be installed on a roof?

A. No, a permit is not required to reroof a residence. Up to three layers of roof covering may be installed, except slate, clay, cement or asbestos-cement tile. Commercial structures do require a permit to reroof.



Please call the City of Central Point Building Department at (541) 423-1973 with any questions you may have regarding permit requirements.



Cheaper Flood Insurance

Spring 2020

Protect Your Property & Lower Rates

Spring and Summer are good times to consider home improvements that have long-term benefit of reducing flood risks and the cost of flood insurance. As noted in the March newsletter, premium rates are based on a variety of factors, but the general rule is: **higher risk = higher premiums.**

Just because your house or property is located in the floodplain does not mean that you can't reduce your flood insurance premiums. In fact, your house may have been built in ways that actually increases your premiums. Below are several ways that can provide you with more affordable insurance rates and reduce your overall risks to experience flood damage.



Install Flood Vents

Buildings in the floodplain must provide at least two openings with 1 sq. inch of opening per 1 sq. foot of enclosed area, including garages. Remember, there are no discounts for "partial credit." Foundation vents, garage doors, windows, and doors do not count unless they have openings installed in them.



Elevate Utilities

If the equipment that services your home (i.e. electrical, heating, ventilation, etc...) is located below the base flood elevation, an additional surcharge will be added to your premium. Maximize your savings and reduce your losses by locating your machinery and equipment above the base flood elevation.



Eliminate Basements / Improve Water Flow in Crawlspace

If your home has a basement or constructed with a crawlspace that is too tall, your premium will be based on the lowest enclosed area below the base flood elevation. By raising the floor of the basement or crawlspace and providing adequate drainage to remove flood waters, you will protect your foundation walls and see increased savings.



Elevate Lowest Floor Above BFE

Elevating above the base flood elevation is the fastest way to reduce the annual cost of a flood insurance premium. Every foot that the main floor is raised above the flood waters equals increased savings. Remember to consider proper construction techniques for the enclosed areas below the new main floor level.

More Information:

City of Central Point - Floodplain Information
Floodplain Development, Insurance and Property
Protection Assistance: 541.664.3321, Ext. 245
Website:
<http://www.centralpointoregon.gov/floodplain>

National Flood Insurance Program

Answers questions about flood insurance and provides
assistance to find local insurance agents.
1-800-427-4661
Website: www.floodsmart.gov

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update:

FEMA is extending the 30-day grace period for flood
policy renewals to 120-days for policies that expire
between February 13th and June 15th.

This will ensure your policy is not cancelled for
nonpayment or underpayment of the premium.

Contact your agent or insurer for more information
about the 120-day extension and other payment
options.

The City of Central Point is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy workplace and community for our employees and citizens. To assist in the practice of social distancing, we would like to remind you of our zero-fee, no-contact, simple payment options:



<p>Mail: Mail check or money order payments to: City of Central Point 140 S 3rd St Central Point OR 97502</p>	<p>Drop Box: Use our 24/7 drop box which is located in the Oak St parking lot to the North of City Hall</p>	<p>Inside Drop Box: Use our drop box upstairs in the lobby during normal business hours of 8:00am – 4:30pm.</p>	<p>Phone: Call (541) 664-3321 ext 204 to pay using your VISA or Mastercard.</p>	<p>Online: Visit our website at www.centralpointoregon.gov and click on the button to Pay Your Water Bill. Our easy to use secure payment link "Pay Online".</p>
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The Importance of Scooping your dog's poop

Pet waste is smelly, unsightly and messy and attracts bugs and rodents. It is also a health risk to both people and other pets, and it adversely affects water quality. In many locales, it is required by law to pick up your pet's poop and dispose of it properly. It's also just the neighborly thing to do. Nobody likes stepping in poop or having to clean up other people's dog messes in their yards.

There are many diseases that can be spread in a pet's fecal matter. These can include dangerous bacteria, such as coliforms, Campylobacter, Salmonella and more. Giardia and Cryptosporidia are a couple of other nasty intestinal parasites that can be potentially spread via your pet's feces to other animals or humans. Some pets may also be harboring intestinal parasites, such as roundworms or hookworms. The eggs of these parasites are shed in an infected pet's stool and then can be easily picked up by our children when they play in the yard or by you when you do yard work.



Water is a precious resource, and water quality is of the utmost concern for all of us. Pet waste left in yard or by the curb gets washed down the storm drains and into the area waterways, such as a local stream, rivers or lake. As the fecal material decays, it uses up the oxygen in the water and may release ammonia. When this chemical process takes place in high quantities, the resulting decrease in oxygen levels and increase in ammonia, especially during warmer time of the year, can lead to algae blooms and fish die-off. The bacteria released during the decay of the stool may also make the water unsafe for swimmers, divers, fishermen and boaters. Let's keep our water safe for everyone by properly disposing of pet poop.

So how can you best deal with pet waste? To start with, if you're walking your dog, pick up after him or her, it's the right thing to do. If your concerned about your kids or you getting something from your yard, pick up the poop with a scooper or a plastic bag slipped over your hand, then either flush it down the toilet or tie it off and put it in the trash.

Take care of your health, your kids' health and your pet's health, be a good neighbor and protect our waterways and water quality by picking up your pet's poop and disposing of it properly.

Contact Your **Council**

email: info@centralpointoregon.gov

City Directory

						
Mayor	Ward I	Ward II	Ward III	Ward IV	At-Large	At-Large
Hank Williams 541-944-0066	Neil Olsen 541-664-7935	Kelley Johnson 541-499-8977	Melody Thueson 503-856-6822	Tanea Browning 541-890-8377	Mike Parsons 541-554-3892	Rob Hernandez 541-840-1841

If you are not sure who your representative is call 541-423-1026

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Dates to Remember

May

- 5 - Planning Commission (6 pm)
- 14 - City Council Meeting (7 pm)
- 18 - Council Study Session (6 pm)
- 21 - Parks and Rec Commission Meeting (6 pm)
- 25 - Memorial Day *
- 25 - Memorial Commemoration at Don Jones Park (9 am)
- 28 - City Council Meeting (7 pm)

June

- 2 - Planning Commission (6 pm)
- 11 - City Council Meeting (7 pm)
- 15 - Study Session (6 pm)
- 25 - City Council Meeting (7 pm)

* = City Hall Closed

Meetings are subject to change, please check our website www.centralpointoregon.gov for more information.

Meetings are subject to sheltering in place and may be conducted virtually.

City Manager
541-423-1026

Building Permits
541-423-1973

Code Enforcement
541-423-1034

Community Development
541-423-1973

Library (Central Point Branch)
541-664-3228

Police (Non Emergency)
541-664-5578

Parks and Recreation
541-664-3321 ext. 130

Public Works
541-423-1028

Public Works After Hours
(New number) 541-326-3628

Utility Billing
541-664-3321 ext. 204

**CALL 911
for Fire, Medical and
Police Emergencies**

City Hall hours are 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Monday - Friday. Feel free to drop in
with questions, pay a bill, or just say
"hello".