

The Oregonian

3 Cooling Centers Opened as temperature Hit 95

By Lynne Terry
August 27, 2017

Officials opened two cooling centers in Portland and one in Gresham on Sunday as temperatures hit 95 degrees.

The same three centers will also be open on Monday and Tuesday. The temperature could hit 100 degrees on Monday, according to the National Weather Service. Jaquetta White, a communications official, said hot weather could return over Labor Day, prompting the centers to reopen. If temperatures are over 90 degrees for five days or over 95 degrees over three days, the county opens cooling center.

The centers have movies and board games along with snacks and water. They are free and open to the public and their pets. They'll be open until 8 p.m. on Sunday and from 5 to 8 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday.

The three centers are located at the Multnomah County Walnut Park Building, 5325 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Portland; Multnomah County East Building, 600 N.E. Eighth St., Gresham; and Hollywood Senior Center, 1820 N.E. 40th Ave., Portland.

Six people showed up at the northeast location, White said, and three turned up at Hollywood. There were 30 in the Gresham center.

The last time the centers were open in early August 500 people showed up over 11 days.

"It was back-to-back days of 100-plus degrees," White said.

The Portland Tribune

Yeah, Here Comes the Heat Again

By Pamplin Media Group
August 26, 2017

Smoke from forest fires burning east and south of the region will drift into the valley. The smoke will hang around into early next week.

Just when you thought it was safe to enjoy summer's final few weeks, here comes more heat.

The National Weather Service said a thermal trough is hovering over the region, bringing temperatures in the mid to upper 90s through Monday, Aug. 28. Overnight lows probably won't cool too much, staying in the upper 50s to low 60s, according to the weather service.

Smoke from forest fires burning east and south of the region will drift into the valley. The smoke will hang around into early next week. An onshore breeze should push the smoke out of the valley by midweek, the weather service said.

Don't get too comfortable, the temperatures should climb back into the low 90s by Friday, Sept. 1, according to the weather service.

Multnomah County said Saturday that it would open three cooling centers Sunday through Tuesday to help people deal with the hot weather.

The centers will be open from 2 to 8 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 27, and from 5 to 8 p.m. Monday, Aug. 28, and Tuesday, Aug. 29.

Cooling centers are:

- Multnomah County Walnut Park Building, 5325 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
- Multnomah County East Building, 600 N.E. Eighth St., Gresham.
- Hollywood Senior Center, 1820 N.E. 40th Ave.

To get a free ride to the cooling centers, county officials urge people to call Ride Connection, 503-226-0700.

Willamette Week

Portland's Office of Homeless Services Reports Helping a Record Number of People Find Housing This Year

*By Elise Herron
August 27, 2017*

A Home for Everyone, the county and city's initiative on homelessness, says there's been a 65 percent increase in housing placements over the last three years.

During the year ending June 30, at least 8,532 people in Multnomah County spent at least one night in a homeless shelter — a dramatic increase, up 79 percent, from two years before.

That increase reflects a rise in the number of homeless people. From January 2015 to February of this year, the number is up nearly 10 percent.

But also it reflects an increase in the number of shelter beds.

Since January 2016, 650 additional shelter beds have been added.

The countywide organization working to alleviate homelessness, A Home for Everyone, also reported earlier this week that they've exceeded their goals for housing people and providing homeless shelters.

The commission says it has helped nearly 4,900 people find housing over the last fiscal year — an increase of 65 percent from four years ago — and 6,139 find prevention services, such as assistance with their rent (an increase of 2,000 since last year).

"Taken together, this ongoing progress shows the difference that unprecedented investments in housing and services have made for thousands of families in need," the statement reads, "even as the region's affordability crisis continues to push people into homelessness and make it harder to escape once they fall."

A Home for Everyone is a three-year-old program that partnered with Portland and Gresham city governments in 2015. Mayor Ted Wheeler, County Chair Deborah Kafoury and City Commissioner Chloe Eudaly are among the group's nine executive committee members.

According to today's release, the year-end numbers were reported at an August 21 executive committee meeting.

"We have helped thousands more of our neighbors off of the streets and into the safety of a shelter bed or a home of their own," Wheeler said, according to the release. "We must continue to ensure our record investments in homeless services are being spent as effectively as possible."

Though the promise to focus on housing that help Wheeler win the mayor's office with has come into question recently.

The city is now months behind schedule in spending the \$258 million bond to create affordable housing that voters approved last November. The first housing project to see a portion of that money is scheduled for October.

A Home for Everyone recognizes that a lack of affordable housing is largely responsible for the increasing number of homeless residents in Multnomah County.

"Though fewer neighbors were counted sleeping outside, more neighbors overall were counted as homeless," the news release reads. "That's largely because of a widening gap between wages and housing costs in Multnomah County."