



*Our Mission: To foster an environment of economic growth and opportunity through effective partnerships with our citizens, businesses, and visitors while maintaining a high standard for quality of life in a progressive community which embraces its heritage.*

## CITY OF OREGON

115 N. 3rd Street, Oregon, IL 61061

Phn: 815-732-6321/ website: [cityoforegon.org](http://cityoforegon.org)

To: Mayor Ken Williams & Oregon City Council

From: Darin J. DeHaan, City Manager & Staff

**DATE: May 12, 2026**

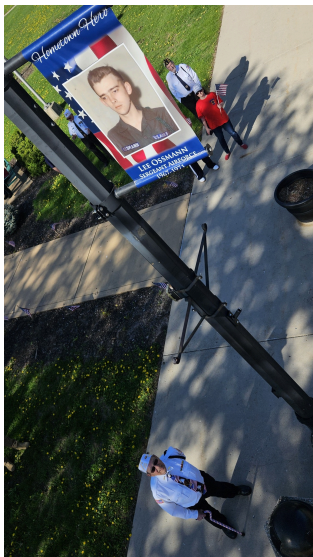
I am pleased to provide Mayor Williams and the Oregon City Council with the following synopsis of City Business for – **Apr 11, 2026 – May 8, 2026**

### Submitted by Darin DeHaan - City Manager

- Created the RFP for bids for new welcome sign(s) the bid request will have two options depending on costs. Option 1 for the East Rt. 64 sign replacement Option 2 would be for all three sign replacements. Bids are due August 7th by 10:00 a.m. Bid information is on the city website: <https://cityoforegon.org/bids/>
- Council member Tim Krug, his wife Kim, John Dickson and I attended the IHDA Revitalization Kick-off meeting with Amy Bashiti of IHDA. Thank you to Liz Hiemstra with OCEDC for coordinating the meeting. The next step will be to launch a community survey to gather information and public input.
- I attended a webinar through ILCMA on Professional Mental Wellness Checks for Police Officers. I continue to seek education and insights on how to best protect the mental health of our police officers.
- We held a Bridge-to-Bridge recreation path planning meeting in order to coordinate this potential future recreation path along the rock river.
- I attended the Ogle Co. Economic Development Corporation Stakeholder and Board Meeting. We are working on several issues including housing, creating a database of potential development space and other resources. Our new website has launched <https://www.oglecountyedc.com/> I encourage everyone to check it out. It looks great. Thank you to Liz Hiemstra and Matthew Lenox for all the hard work on it.
- I have had multiple inquiries from several potential new businesses in Oregon. I'm working closely with those entrepreneurs and Liz Hiemstra to find space, answer questions and smooth the path for small business creation in Oregon.
- I met with officials to discuss questions and concerns about public demonstrations around the courthouse. I continue to coordinate with the demonstration planners to maintain a safe environment in our community. I continue to respond to citizen's questions and other concerns as well. Oregon staunchly supports protecting the First Amendment and we work diligently to coordinate resources and responses accordingly.

- I attended the Candlelight walk planning meeting in a dual role as a volunteer but also as City Manager to help coordinate city resources and support for this great event. Thank you to the entire group of volunteers who work so hard to make this magical event happen!
- Cheryl and I held our annual meeting with our insurance brokers in preparation for this year’s renewals and budget considerations.
- We held a Leadership Team Meeting and discussed several items. I walked the group through an exercise recognizing green flags in leadership styles. I appreciate the team's efforts to learn and grow as the leaders for our departments.
- Follow ups, legal research, and continued coordination efforts as I continue to vet out the new “Main Street Director” position. I’m still working on some details how this will work and will be formulated. I hope to launch the candidate search very soon.
- The City of Oregon is honored to partner with the Oregon VFW on a banner program recognizing our local military heroes. The [Oregon, IL VFW Post 8739 and Mess Hall](#) approached Mayor Williams and the City with this idea. City Manager Darin DeHaan worked closely with Lee Ossmann and VFW representatives to help bring this meaningful project to life.

A huge thank you goes out to our Public Works team—Bill Covell, Jordan Plock, Josh Pickering, Aaron Montoya, and Andy Bonilla—for their work installing the banners. Veterans along with their families and friends gathered to watch the installation of the first banner. The banners will be displayed surrounding the Ogle County Courthouse



along Routes 2 and 64. This location provides a fitting backdrop, complementing the beauty of the courthouse and nearby memorials. “This is a small token to honor our heroes who have served in the military, and we are grateful for all of our veterans! Huge

shoutout to Lee for his tireless work on this project. The first 20 banners will be displayed, and the City Council will discuss potential expansion to additional areas in the near future,” said Darin DeHaan, City Manager.

\*Group photo credit Earlene Hinton\*

🌳 Happy Arbor Day! 🌳

- "The City of Oregon celebrated by planting a new tree just behind the city welcome sign along South Route 2. We're excited to watch it grow into a beautiful backdrop that greets everyone entering our community." - Darin DeHaan, City Manager

A special thank you to our Public Works Department: Jordan, Josh, Skyler and Andy as well as: Mayor Ken Williams, Council Member Tim Krug, and Tree Board Member Grant Afferbaugh for taking part in today's planting and helping make this effort possible.



- I continue to coordinate city responses on citizen concerns.
- I attended the NorthCog board meeting in Rockford. As a group we are working on several issues including continual communication with our State Legislators and monitoring potential state bills that impact local government.
- I've had several discussions coordinating potential grants for various projects.
- Follow ups on Facade grants, Mural Application, and various TIF projects.

“As always I want to remind the community that I am always open to hearing your perspectives if there are things you feel need addressed. I'm available via phone, email, or you can always message me via facebook messenger from the City page. We work for you and your input and communication is vital for our success.” - Darin DeHaan

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*City Hall - Cheryl Hilton, City Clerk*

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**MEETING INFORMATION**

**Planning & Zoning:**

Next meeting Tuesday **May 19, 2026 5:30 PM** Oregon City Hall Council Chambers.  
Public Hearing for a Short-Term rental request.

**Public Art Commission:**

Next meeting TBD at Oregon City Hall Council Chambers.

**Tree Board:**

Next meeting Wednesday **May 20, 2026 4:00 PM** Oregon City Hall Conference Room.

**250th Anniversary of US Ad Hoc:**

Next Meeting **May 21, 2026 5:00 PM** Oregon City Hall Conference Room.

**City Council Meeting:**

Next meeting Tuesday **May 26, 2026 5:30 PM** Oregon City Hall Council Chambers.

**Sustainability Committee:**

Next meeting Monday **Jun 8, 2026 9:00 AM** Oregon City Hall Conference Room.

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**Public Works**

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*Director of Public Works Submitted by Bill Covell*

**Daily Tasks**

- Help Schedule
- Approve Bills
- Purchased supplies
- Monthly Fuel Reports
- Safety Training

**Projects**

- Headworks
  - Review project estimate
  - Review plans for SCADA integration
- Lead Service Inventory

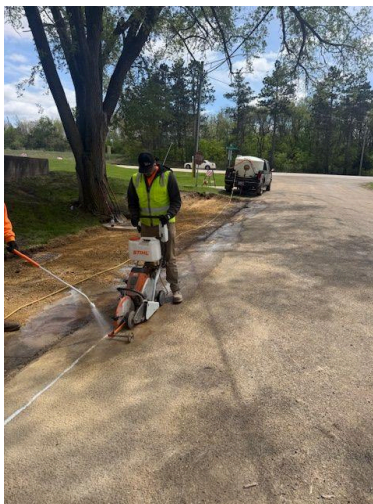
- Updated Lead Line Inventory
- 2026 Local Road Projects
  - Century Hill Subdivision
    - Check on quantities
    - Review with engineer
- 2026 MFT Project
  - Reviewed engineers cost estimate
  - Added block on south 8th Street
  - City Hall Parking Lot
  - Street Garage Parking Lot
    - Plan out drainage
- 2025 East Side Sidewalk
  - Followed up with Fehr Graham
- Pedestrian Crossing
  - Spoke with IDOT and IDOT will be staking locations for pedestals
- Assisted in help in Lena
- Helped install cameras a WWTP & Street Department
- Worked on Budgets
- Produced floor plan of building in town
- Helped with brush clean-up

**Meetings**

- Department Head
- Safety Meeting

**Miscellaneous**

- Worked on Fulcrum report



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## *Street Department Submitted by Jordan Plock*

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### **A. Daily Tasks**

- Trash pickup of city trash cans
- City mechanic working on daily maintenance tasks
- Crew has started the yearly mowing projects.

### **B. Projects**

- Crew worked on a drainage ditch project on Daysville Rd.
- Crew installed sod along Rt 64 near the courthouse where the prior plant beds were removed.
- A few members of the team gave up their weekend to go help the Village of Lena with cleanup after the recent tornado. We appreciate all of their hard work to help out others in need.
- Crew installed new veterans banners along the old county courthouse.
- Crew recently installed more security cameras at the sewage treatment plant as well as the street garage.
- Crew planted a tree for the Arbor Day celebration. They also planted multiple trees as part of the city tree replacement program. This program is an 80/20 cost split with the city up to 100 dollars. Please contact the city if you are interested in this program.
- Crew worked on a drainage issue on N 7th st.
- Crew prepped an area on N Etnyre Ave for new parking spots. That area was paved by Martin and Co.
- Crew removed 100 ft of sidewalk along S 5th street that will be replaced in the coming week.

### **C. Training**

- Street Foreman led safety classes on PPE.
- Worked on weekly safety training
- Foreman worked on continuing education classes
- Worked on updating our list of required OSHA training for the year.



- Street Foreman attended IPSI and institute for supervisors to learn and grow in their field.

#### **D. General**

- Street Foreman attended the department head meeting.
- Street Foreman along with the Public Works Director held one interview for a summer help position.
- We have started running the street sweeper for the season.

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### *Sewer Department Submitted by Scott Wallace*

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#### **A. Daily tasks**

- Daily chores
- Testing full set (process control/EPA Required Monitoring)
- Half testing (process control)
- Pumped Sludge
- Cleaned bar screens, netting of tanks, multiple times daily due to rags, debris
- Daily reporting of National Weather Service recordings
- Lift Station usage recording
- Assisted the Water Department
- Monthly reports to the EPA
- Generator/ Well checks
- Worked with various customers on water and sewer issues (leaks, sewer backups)

#### **B. Head Works**

- Nothing new at this time

#### **C. Scada Upgrade**

- Metro Cloud integration is coming along nicely

#### **D. Training**

- 13th Annual Training Expo at Ferguson Water Works

#### **E. General**

- Benesh hauled primary Digester
- Cleaned out back up Digester
- New meter at Digester
- Cleaned effluent channel
- Weather Related Issues (Power issues due to storms)
- Started seasonal chlorination
- Jetted out culverts @ Webster st.

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## *Water Department Submitted by Jeff Pennington*

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### **A. Daily Tasks**

- Chores
- Daily Testing
- Julie Locates
- Final reads
- Water turn-ons
- Water shut-offs
- Generator checks

### **B. Wells**

- Repaired Chemical feed pump parts as needed
- Received Chemical delivery from Hawkins for process/control
- Ordered replacement parts for Chemical feed pumps

### **C. Meter Replacement Program**

- Been scheduling and replacing meters as time allows

### **D. EPA compliance**

- Completed Monthly Bac-t/ Fluoride sampling for Epa compliance
- Collected Lead and Copper sample for Homeowner at 808 Franklin St. Awaiting results.
- Completed Monthly Operating Reports for April 2026 Epa compliance.
- Working on collecting Information for a Special exemption permit for PFAS for the IEPA. Previously acquired testing done for USEPA may be able to be used. Working with IEPA and Laboratory to get that information submitted.

### **E. Training**

- Worked with Aidan on properly filling out and submitting Monthly Epa paperwork.
- Worked with Metro cloud on new Scada software

### **F. General**

- The department head is on Intermittent Family medical leave. Will continue to work with the Public Works Director to meet needs for EPA compliance and ensure the department is fulfilling tasks to operate properly.
- Assisted the Sewer department when needed
- Worked with customers on water leaks and sewer issues.
- Worked with customers on meter repairs, and replacement of meters.
- Started biannual hydrant flushing.



### *Police Department Submitted by Chief Matthew Kalnins*

- April 17, 2025 Chief Kalnins and Lt. Brechon assisted the Byron Police Department in certifying all of their officers in the Taser 10.
- On April 11, 2025 Officer Taylor Buckwalter of the Oregon Police Department, LSSI, the Ogle County Health Department and the Oregon VFW Participated in a National Drug Take Back Day for the city of Oregon. This was an opportunity for Citizens to turn in any expired or left over prescription drugs they may have in their possession. It is important to dispose of these drugs so that they do not fall into the hands of children or anyone that should not have them. If anyone missed this event and would like to turn in any prescription drugs they can still do so at several other locations and the Oregon Police Department. Please make sure there are no sharps, needles and pour your prescription pills into a ziploc bag before putting them in the container. Any questions please contact the Oregon Police department at 815-732-2803



- April 20 Lt. Brechon and Det/Sgt Most attended Active Response training to become instructors in the topic. This will allow more training in house giving officers the important practice on how to respond to major incidents. This will also give officers credit toward ILETSB mandated training requirements.

- May 4 -May 6 Officer Josh Cofield attended Instructor training for De-Escalation tactics through Blue Shield. This will allow the Oregon Police Department to again train in-house, getting more reps and being better prepared.