

SUBJECT: MARCH FOR MEALS PROCLAMATION

DATE: MARCH 4, 2025

**PRESENTED BY: ADAM BLACKMORE, DIRECTOR OF PARKS, RECREATION,
OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS**

SUMMARY:

Each March, Meals on Wheels celebrates the historic day in 1972 when a national nutrition program for seniors was added to the Older Americans Act. This legislation supported the rapid growth of the Meals on Wheels network that now collectively serves 2.8 million seniors each year. This year's March for Meals celebration comes at a time when eight out of ten local Meals on Wheels programs are still delivering meals to more older adults than they were prior to the pandemic, and operational and food costs are still soaring even while inflation slows. Coal Creek Meals on Wheels is the local provider of meals on wheels and in 2024 served 17,331 meals to Louisville residents, which is up from 11,253 meals in 2023.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

RECOMMENDATION:

Proclaim March 2025 as March for Meals.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. March for Meals Month Proclamation, March 2025

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPACT:

☐		Financial Stewardship & Asset Management	☐		Reliable Core Services
☐		Vibrant Economic Climate	☐		Quality Programs & Amenities
☒		Engaged Community	☐		Healthy Workforce
☐		Supportive Technology	☒		Collaborative Regional Partner



**A PROCLAMATION DECLARING MARCH 2025 AS THE
23rd ANNUAL MARCH FOR MEALS MONTH**

WHEREAS, this year, Meals on Wheels programs from across the country are joining together for the March for Meals awareness campaign to celebrate its success and garner the support needed to ensure these critical programs can continue; and

WHEREAS, Coal Creek Meals on Wheels has served Erie, Lafayette, Louisville, and Superior for over 50 years, delivering more than just a meal to older adults, individuals with disabilities, and anyone in need who is at a significant risk of hunger, food insecurity, and isolation; and

WHEREAS Coal Creek Meals on Wheels works to address food insecurity and malnutrition, combat social isolation, enable independence, and improve health for years to come; and

WHEREAS, in 2025, Coal Creek Meals on Wheels will surpass one million meals served since the organization's founding; and

WHEREAS, Coal Creek Meals on Wheels provides a powerful opportunity for social connection for hundreds of seniors to help combat the negative health effects and economic consequences of loneliness and isolation; and

WHEREAS, food insecurity is increasing substantially, and action is needed now to support local Meals on Wheels programs through federal, state and local funding; volunteering; donations; and raising awareness to ensure these vital services can continue to be delivered for years to come; and

WHEREAS, Coal Creek Meals on Wheels continue to serve anyone in need of a nutritious meal, regardless of their age, income, socioeconomic status, or other factors.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Louisville City Council does hereby proclaim March 2025 as a month celebrating Coal Creek Meals on Wheels and urges every community member to take this month to honor the programs, the individuals they serve, and the volunteers who care for them. Our recognition of, and involvement in, the national March for Meals celebration can enrich our entire community and help combat hunger and isolation.

DATED this 4th day of March, 2025

Christopher M. Leh, Mayor

ATTEST:

Genny Kline, Interim City Clerk