

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Richard Meyers, City Manager

SUBJECT: Friday Update

DATE: May 11, 2018

Yard of the Week

The 2018 Yard of the Week Season has begun. This week's winner of the prestigious Yard of the Week award goes to the residents at 1605 Fairview Place. Any single family residence is eligible for the Yard of the Week award. The award brings with it a prize package that includes a one-month credit on the water from the City, a gift certificate to local businesses from the Chamber, a year subscription from the Cottage Grove Sentinel and the fame of having the Yard of the Week sign in their yard. Nominations can be made by contacting the Chamber of Commerce or City Hall.

Permanently Affordable Homes - Land Trust Development in Cottage Grove

The Neighborhood Economic Development Corporation (NEDCO) is exploring the development of two new affordable housing developments, one in Cottage Grove and one in Florence. The homes would be cottage cluster Community Land Trust developments. Community Land Trusts make owning a home more affordable by separating the land and the house. Homeowners acquire full ownership of the home without having to pay the cost of the land. Unlike renting, this allows moderate income community members to build equity and begin creating long-term financial stability. The land would be held in trust by NEDCO and the cottage homes would be constructed and sold as permanently affordable homes. The funding application for this development is out right now so NEDCO is working to get a sense of the interest in homeownership opportunities in both locations. The funding requires that the homes be sold to families at or below 80% AMI and NEDCO would like to work with potential homebuyers to get them ready for homeownership.

Any community member interested in participating in the program should take the survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NEDCOCLT>. The quick and simple survey will help NEDCO get a sense of the type of units to develop (1-3 bedrooms). Anyone interested in learning more about the project or staying informed can also take the survey. Please see the attached flyer for more information. Pass this information on to anyone that might be interested in homeownership. A public outreach meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 5th from 5:30 to 7:00 pm in the Community Center. Please share the word about this exciting project.

Primary Election

Currently the May Primary Election voter turnout is only 18.87%. Remember ballots must be turned in by 8:00 pm on Tuesday, May 15th. Ballots should be dropped off at ballot boxes now to be sure to be received to be counted in the election. The ballot box in Cottage Grove is front of the Community Center at 700 E. Gibbs.

2018-19 Budget Process

The Cottage Grove Budget Committee met and approved the Proposed Budget May 8th. The next step in the process is for the 2018-19 Approved Budget to go before the City Council at the June 25th City Council meeting for their final consideration and adoption. On the 25th of June the City Council will hold a public hearing to receive comments from the public concerning the uses of State Shared Revenues as well as a public hearing to discuss the budget as approved by the Budget Committee. The complete 2018-19 Approved Budget is available on the City's website at: www.cottagegrove.org

U.S. Bank Economic Forecast

The City Manager and Finance Director attended the annual Economic Outlook Breakfast hosted by US Bank. Economist John Mitchell spoke at the event and highlighted the economic trends and indicators of a healthy growing economy. The current economy is the second longest period of economic growth in history and is different than all others in history. The newest employment numbers show an unemployment rate of 3.9% and that number is not expected to change.

Officer Walker Promoted to Sergeant

The Police Department has announced the promotion of Officer Matt Walker to Sergeant effective July 1, 2018. Walker will replace Chris Joyce who will become the School Resource Officer effective on July 1, 2018.

New Communications Specialist

The Police Department has announced that after successful completion of the background phase, Gabriela Iboa-Pierce has been chosen as the new Communications Specialist. Gabriela will fill a current vacancy in dispatch and her start date is pending.

Middlefield Golf Course - Google My Business

In an effort to promote Middlefield Golf Course, the City maintains information about the course on Google. The stats are in for April as compared to March, 2018. According to Google, 5256 people found us on Google, 101 people asked for directions to the course, up 124%, 236 people visited our website, a 21% increase, and 46 people called the course, up 21%. The revenue for the course as compared to March a year ago increased 47%.

The comments customers are leaving about the course are positive, with a number of compliments about how impressed they are with the quality of the greens. Thanks to a dedicated Maintenance and Pro-Shop staff for providing a great experience for our customers. Hopefully the weather cooperates and people can get out and enjoy the course.

Boy Scout Troop 140 Visits City Hall

Members of Boy Scout Troop 140 met with Ron Bradsby, City Engineer, on Monday evening, May 7th. The Scouts are working on their Engineering merit badge. One of their requirements of earning the badge, is to visit with an engineer and do the following:

- a. Discuss the work this engineer does and the tools the engineer uses.
- b. Discuss with the engineer a current project and the engineer's particular role in it.
- c. Find out how the engineer's work is done and how results are achieved.
- d. Ask to see the reports that the engineer writes concerning the project.

Ron explained that a City Engineer is in the unique situation of reviewing proposed development and making sure the development meets the standards of the City of Cottage Grove as well as designing projects as it relates to the City's infrastructure systems of streets, storm drainage, sanitary sewer and water. He showed the troop three projects in various stages of development. The projects were the new Harrison Elementary School, the new building at the City Shop and the Swinging Bridge. He discussed the steps that were taken in each project to get to its current status.

Prior to leaving, the Troop got to see data collecting equipment such as the GPS unit and theodolite, drafting equipment, computers and plotters.

Library Summer Camp

The Cottage Grove Library will begin sign-ups next Tuesday, May 15th, for our Summer Camps for children and youth. We offer "Nature for Kids" and "Teen Adventure" field trips for children and youth ages 3-17. These trips are fun and educational and get youth outdoors to explore the amazing landscapes, habitats, and ecosystems that surround us here in Western Oregon. Parents or guardians should stop by the Library during regular library hours to sign-up for these amazing and fun outdoor experiences.

Poetry Karaoke

The Cottage Grove Library had its first ever "Poetry Karaoke" event recently. It was a great event with many interesting, fun and inspiring poetry readings by a diversity of folks from the community. Special thanks to The Axe and Fiddle for hosting the event, and to "Mule on Fire" for providing awesome live music.

Art Show at the Library Now

There is still time to stop by the Cottage Grove Library and view the Teen Library Advisory Board Annual Art Show that is presently hanging in the Community Center Gallery. Voting is still open for favorite piece of Art until May 24th. Stop by soon to see the amazing work created this year by local Cottage Grove Artists.

Sensory Story Time Tuesday

"Sensory Story Time" will be held at the Cottage Grove Library on Tuesday, May 15th at 11:30 am. This is a wonderful "sensory" interactive experience for families with children ages 0-6, but all ages are welcome.

Quote of the Week

"Moms are like buttons—they hold everything together."

~Unknown~