

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Richard Meyers, City Manager

SUBJECT: Friday Update

DATE: October 26, 2018

### **Last ArtWalk of 2018**

Tonight Cottage Grove Main Street will be hosting the last ArtWalk of the 2018 season. Be sure to stop in and enjoy the festivities.

### **Model Railroad Show**

The Willamette Cascade Model Railroad Club has taken over the Cottage Grove Armory with a huge collection of model trains and layouts. They even have a couple of sizes of the models of the General. Be sure to stop in and visit the show. They will be open tonight during ArtWalk and on Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

### **Drug Take Back Day**

Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup> is National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. It is terribly important that we recognize the significance of properly disposing of unused and expired medications. The United States is in the midst of an opioid epidemic. Every day 134 people die from opiate related overdoses - and misuse of prescription painkillers is a large contributor to this crisis. Thankfully, there is something we can all do. We can all reduce the potential misuse of drugs by properly disposing of expired or unused medications.

The Cottage Grove Police Department has a drug drop-off box in the Police Department lobby that is available 365 days of the year. On Saturday, everyone is encouraged to check their medicine cabinets and remove all unused and expired medications and bring them to the drop box for proper disposal. Never, I repeat, NEVER dispose of unused medications in the trash or by flushing them down the toilet. Medications in the trash can be retrieved by someone and the sewer treatment system is not designed to completely remove the medications from the waste system.

### **November 6, 2018 Election Ballots**

Ballots for the November 6, 2018 have been mailed out by Lane County Elections. Voters who have not received their ballot in the mail should do one or more of the following:

- Go to: [www.oregonvotes.gov](http://www.oregonvotes.gov) to confirm you are registered.
- If you have moved to any new address, even the apartment next door, you will need to update your registration. Voters can update online at: [www.oregonvotes.gov](http://www.oregonvotes.gov) if they have a valid DMV license, identification card or permit number. The same website can be used

to update or remove a mailing address. You can also complete a registration card and mail or deliver it to Lane County Elections.

Ballots may **not** be forwarded by law. If voters are not going to be at a regular residence or mailing address, they need to submit a request for an absentee ballot at the temporary location. If voters are unsure what to do, they should call Lane County Elections at 541-682-4234 to determine what action they must take in order to receive a ballot.

Lane County Elections is located at 275 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, on the corner of 10<sup>th</sup> and Lincoln in downtown Eugene. Their public office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. On Election Day, November 6, 2018, the Lane County Elections Office will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

### **Halloween Howl**

On Wednesday, October 31<sup>st</sup> be sure to join the thousands of kids downtown for the Halloween Howl. There will be candy, games, costume contests and all the fun that can be frightened up downtown from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. The event is sponsored by the Main Street program, Chamber of Commerce, City of Cottage Grove and nearly 50 Cottage Grove businesses and organizations.

### **Look at all the Pumpkins**

The tradition continues with the City of Cottage Grove staff Pumpkin decorating/craving contest at City Hall. City Staff will be bringing in their pumpkins on Tuesday by noon. The City Council and YAC will be judging the pumpkin creations between noon and 5:00 pm on Tuesday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to stop by on Halloween and see the display of pumpkins. The pumpkins, just like many things on Halloween, will vanish after the Downtown Trick or Treating is over, so don't miss visiting this amazing display.

### **League Advocacy Workshop**

The City Manager attended the League of Oregon Cities Regional Advocacy Workshop in Springfield today. The workshop provided an overview of the League's Legislative priorities for the upcoming Legislative Session. The attendees provided information about how the priority issues impacted their communities. The workshop also discussed "City Day at the Capitol" that will be held on January 24, 2019. The Mayor and City Council is invited to attend the event. The theme for City Day will be "Let Cities Work!" and "Invest with us".

### **Kiwanis Sunrisers**

The City Manager spoke to the Kiwanis Sunrisers on Wednesday this week. He provided a brief report about the projects underway at the City.

### **Supervisor Meeting**

The City Manager convened a meeting of all supervisors on City Staff. The supervisors now meet quarterly to discuss issues facing the City and staff. They have discussed at previous meetings how to comply with hiring laws and the proper process for evaluations, employee benefits, discrimination and disciplinary processes. This quarter's meeting was an open forum to discuss concerns or issue individual supervisors are having. Next quarter the group will be discussing emergency operations. The meeting provides a great opportunity for supervisors from every department to get together and discuss issues that they face every day.

### **Service Awards**

The 2018 City of Cottage Grove Service Awards were handed out on Tuesday this week. Employees were recognized for 5, 10 or 20 years of service with the City. The employees that attended the lunch time event congratulated their fellow employees as well as enjoyed ice cream and all the toppings. Service award recipients were:

5 Years	10 Years	20 Years
Fred Dilworth	Pete Barrell Polly Hettwer Tamara Miles Cherie Nelson Mike O'Reilly Erich Schroeder	Chris Joyce Richard Meyers Doug Skaggs

### **VisionKeepers**

The City Manager and Community Coordinator staffed the VisionKeepers meeting this week. The VisionKeepers selected co-chairs for 2019, Holli Turpin and Travis Palmer. The City Manager described the re-visioning process that is scheduled to begin in 2019. The VisionKeepers reported on the events and projects underway from various organizations.

### **Winter Weather Preparation Meeting**

The Public Works & Development Director and the Senior Utilities Leadman attended the Oregon Department of Transportation's District 5 Winter Operations Meeting. Representatives from ODOT, Lane County, Lane County Cities, and Lane Transit District met to discuss the upcoming Winter and the preparations taking place to keep roads safe for travel. Participants shared level of service priorities, resources on hand (such as, equipment, sand, salt, de-icer, etc.), and most importantly how best to communicate and support each other during storm events.

### **Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association Conference**

The Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent attended the annual PNCWA conference in Boise, Idaho from Sunday through Wednesday. The conference is held for Wastewater Treatment professionals. Breakout sessions went over new laws pertaining to wastewater, leadership classes and training in phosphorous removal, and solids management. The conference also showcased new technology with vendors demonstrating new equipment used in treatment plants.

### **Whitsell Manufacturing Enterprise Zone Meeting**

On Wednesday the Public Works & Development Director met with employees from Lane County Department of Taxation and Assessment and the owners of Whitsell Manufacturing to discuss the Enterprise Zone Credits available to their company as they work to rebuild. Whitsell Manufacturing is located in Saginaw and this past summer had their manufacturing plant burn down completely. Whitsell Manufacturing is planning to start rebuilding and purchasing equipment in November and hope to be back in operation by June of 2019. The Cottage Grove/Creswell Enterprise Zone allows for property tax exemption for three years on new qualifying investments providing the business increases their employment by a minimum of ten

percent. Whitsell Manufacturing is located in the Enterprise Zone and plans to double its current number of jobs and reestablish their presence in Saginaw.

### **New Library Staff**

The Cottage Grove Public Library is excited to welcome Stephanie Conklin as our new Children's and Youth Services Librarian. Stephanie brings Spanish language skills, a degree in Journalism and a diversity of domestic and international experiences to the position. She worked at the library part-time last summer and now joins us as a full time permanent member of our team. Please stop by the library soon and welcome Stephanie to the Cottage Grove Public Library.

### **90 by 30 Conference**

Library Services Director, Pete Barrell, attended the Annual 90 by 30 Conference in Eugene this week and joined the South Lane Regional Leadership Team in celebrating successful accomplishments of the past year. The Cottage Grove Team has delivered 67 "Welcome Baby Boxes" to new babies. The "Roots of Empathy" project is now bringing babies into elementary school classrooms with trained instructors to help children learn to be gentle, compassionate people. The goal of the 90 by 30 Project is to reduce child abuse 90 percent by 2030 and more participants are needed. For more information on how you can get involved, call Pete at the Library at (541) 767-4147.

### **Storm Drain Clearing**

With rain in the forecast and so many gorgeous fall leaves on the ground already, get ahead of the weather and clear your storm drains to prevent flooding. When clearing a storm drain, please keep these tips in mind:

- If possible, clear the drain before it starts raining.
- Clear about 10 feet on both sides of the drain.
- Clear from the sidewalk, not the street. Wear reflective clothing so vehicles can see you.
- Always wear gloves and be careful of sharp objects!
- Use a rake, shovel, or broom - not your hands.
- Watch out for traffic. Don't clear drains that are in the middle of a street.
- Be careful of standing water to avoid slipping or stepping on sharp objects.
- If children are helping, make sure adults are supervising.
- Don't try to lift storm drain grates. They are very heavy.

### **Row River Nature Park Design Charrette**

On Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am, representatives from the City of Cottage Grove (City Manager Richard Meyers, City Planner Amanda Ferguson and Council President Jake Boone) and students from the University of Oregon's School of Planning, Public Policy, and Management will be conducting a design charrette to brainstorm about how Row River Nature Park can be used in the future with consideration for an improved boat ramp and a redesigned BMX track. The community is invited to attend this event. The charrette will begin and end at the Cottage Grove City Shops located at 425 N. 14<sup>th</sup>. The following link is to the University's Row River Nature Park website: <https://blogs.uoregon.edu/rowriverpark/design-charrette/>

**Lane Transit District Point2Point “Be Seen Be Safe Light Giveaway”**

LTD Point2Point will be distributing free bike, walk and skate lights and other safety information on Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> from 3 – 6 pm at Bohemia Park Pavilion. Stop by and pick up lights for your family.

*Quote of the Week*

*“When black cats prowl and pumpkins gleam, may luck be yours on Halloween.”*

*~Betsy Farrell~*