

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Richard Meyers, City Manager

SUBJECT: Friday Update

DATE: May 4, 2018

### **Rotary**

The City Manager spoke at Rotary on Thursday and presented information about Zombie homes, the Armory, Mayor's Bike Ride, Symphony, Swinging Bridge, YAC's efforts on youth Suicide prevention and the 2018-19 Proposed Budget.

### **Yard of the Week**

Next week the 2018 Yard of the Week season will start. Nominations are welcome, please get those nominations in to either the Chamber of Commerce or City Hall so they can be recognized for their efforts to beautiful the community.

### **Budget Document Available**

The Cottage Grove Budget Committee will meet on Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the City Council Chambers. The Proposed Budget has been delivered to all the members of the Budget Committee and it is available on the City's webpage. Anyone with questions about the Proposed Budget can call the City Manager or the Finance Director.

The City Manager will be taking any Budget Committee members that are interested in a tour on Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. The tour will include a discussion of the Budget and provide an opportunity to answer any questions. Any member that is interested in attending please contact the City Manager's office or the Roberta Likens, Finance Director so we can have space prepared.

### **Pickleball**

The City Manager met with several Pickleball players this week to discuss the future of Pickleball, the fastest growing sport in the country, in Cottage Grove. City staff will be cleaning the tennis courts in the next couple of weeks in preparation for the Pickleball club members to paint lines. Two of the tennis courts will have additional lines for Pickleball courts so players can play tennis or Pickleball. Anyone interested in joining the Pickleball club can contact the City Manager's office and we will provide contact information.

### **U.S. Bank Annual Economic Outlook Breakfast**

The City Manager and Finance Director will be attending the U.S. Bank Annual Economic Outlook Breakfast on Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> featuring Economic Consultant, John Mitchell. Mr. Mitchell served as an Economist of the Western Region at U. S. Bancorp from 1998 to 2007, and has a long history with U.S. Bancorp. Mr. Mitchell's presentations are very informative, insightful, and even a bit entertaining. Thank you to U.S. Bank for providing this opportunity free of charge.

### **Police Department News**

The police department is in its final phases of the hiring process for a Communications Specialist and hope to announce the candidate's name publicly by next week.

Additionally, the department had undergone a four month long police officer recruitment which closed on April 15, 2018. Thirty-five candidates had high enough scores to move onto the Police Officer Standard's Test. The test will be conducted May 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. The department will fill the opening created by retiring School Resource Officer Charles Martin at the end of June. The department hopes to maintain a list of qualified applicants for a minimum of six months.

### **TLAB Art Show**

Please stop by the Cottage Grove Public Library sometime this month to view the Teen Library Advisory Board (TLAB) Annual Art Show that is presently on display in the Community Center Gallery. Local teens created an amazing diversity of ART for this display and competition. Visitors can vote for your favorite works of art... prizes will be awarded at the TLAB Art Show Awards Ceremony on Friday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm. All teens and everyone is welcome to attend.

### **Community Conversation**

The Cottage Grove Vision 2037 "Vision Keepers" invite everyone to attend the second Community Conversation on Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Cottage Grove High School. Join the Vision Keepers for this community event where you can share your ideas regarding current issues here in Cottage Grove. Food and childcare will be provided.

### **New Building Official**

Monday was Jason Bush's first day as the Building Official for the Building Division of the Public Works & Development Department. Jason has over 30 years of experience working for building departments performing inspections and plan reviews. He has all the state certifications for both residential and commercial plan review and inspections excluding electrical. In his first week Jason has approved three new residential home plans, two in Cottage Grove and one in Creswell. Jason has also performed eight inspections in Cottage Grove, eleven in Creswell, and five courtesy visits for future projects. The previous week Jason toured the Warren Daugherty Aquatic Center and the old Cottage Grove Hospital building preparing for the submission of their remodel plans. Jason has hit the ground running and we are excited to have him leading our Building Program.

### **Building Program Meeting**

On Wednesday the Public Works & Development Director met with city officials from Lane County to discuss the Building Codes Division (BCD) of Oregon rule changes regarding

building programs throughout the State. BCD has adopted new rules that require cities with building programs to have a Building Official and an A-Level Electrical Inspector on staff. Building Official's must now have the A-Level Structural certification to qualify as a Building Official. This rule change is going to impact cities and counties statewide and be very hard for them to comply with as there are limited individuals that have the qualifications and the positions are very expensive to fill. BCD has four options for cities moving forward: 1) Direct employment of both the Building Official and Electrical Inspector; 2) Joint municipal employment, up to three municipalities create a program; 3) Regional approach, work jointly cities, counties, and state; 4) Abandon the building program and the county provide building services.

At the present time 36 municipalities have been served notice that their building program may not comply with the new rules. These entities must submit a plan within 30 days explaining how they will meet the requirements by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Cottage Grove, Creswell, and Veneta are working together under option two to provide building services in each city.

On Tuesday the Public Works & Development Director received acceptance of a job offer for an A-Level Electrical Inspector. He will start work for Cottage Grove on June 4<sup>th</sup>. This is important as Cottage Grove, Creswell, and Veneta will now be able to meet the new rules BCD adopted and keep our own building program in operation. All three cities will need to adopt IGAs and submit new Operating Plans before July 1<sup>st</sup> for program certification. It is fortunate Cottage Grove started this change nearly a year ago, because the cities impacted by this change have limited options moving forward in the next two months to keep their programs intact.

#### *Quote of the Week*

*“Sometimes the bad things that happen in our lives put us directly on the path to the best things that will ever happen to us.”*

*~Author Unknown~*