

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Richard Meyers, City Manager

SUBJECT: Friday Update

DATE: April 12, 2019

Floodwaters

The floodwaters have essentially moved north on up the Willamette. There are still some wet spots and high water in the area but hopefully the weather will calm and the levels will continue to go back to normal. Sunday night as a result of the Sheriff's office ordering evacuation of the Riverstone Mobile Home Park south of the City, the Red Cross was looking for a site to open a shelter for those displaced by the evacuation. The City was able to make the Community Center available. Thank you staff and other volunteers that helped get things ready for the Red Cross to move in. Especially thank you to the groups and individuals that had events or meetings scheduled in the building that cancelled or moved their event to allow the shelter to remain in the Community Center until Wednesday when it closed.

Lane County also brought their Animals in Disaster volunteers and equipment and set up at City Hall behind the Police Department. They were available to assist anyone needing care for their animals Monday through Wednesday.

The floodwaters in the basement of City Hall have been removed. The space is officially dry today and will be getting back to normal next week. There was very little damage and the water removal was completed quickly to prevent mold or other issues.

Legislative Hearing

The City Manager joined the State of Oregon Parks and Recreation Director Lisa Sumption to testify before the Senate Rules Committee on Senate Concurrent Resolution 30 regarding the State Scenic Bikeway program's 10th Anniversary. Senator Prozanski introduced the Resolution in the Senate that commemorates the 10th Anniversary and names May 12-18, 2019 as Scenic Bikeway Week. He also testified at the public hearing and introduced Director Sumption and the City Manager.

The Scenic Bikeway program started in 2009 with the designation of the Willamette Valley Scenic Bikeway. The Covered Bridges Scenic Bikeway in Cottage Grove was designated in 2012 as the 5th Scenic Bikeway in the program. There are now 17 Scenic Bikeways in the state covering 1,253 miles.

Snow Storm Update

On Tuesday the Public Works & Development Director met with Field Representatives from FEMA and the Oregon State Office of Emergency Management to present Cottage Grove's storm damages

from the February 24th snow storm. The intent of the meeting was to provide evidence of the damage and expenses for clean up. The Director presented them with a book of pictures, receipts, and logs detailing labor, equipment, and material costs expended and estimates to complete the clean up.

Once the costs have been validated, provided the total costs for all agencies in Lane County meet the minimum damage assessment value, the City and all other qualifying agencies could receive reimbursement of up to 75% of the costs incurred by the storm. To date the total value of the damage to agencies in Lane County exceeds \$9 million. This is almost double the minimum need to qualify for assistance.

The next steps are for the President to declare the region a disaster and for Congress to appropriate resources for assistance. If that happens FEMA will come back and work with the agencies to verify the actual expenses incurred to qualify for the assistance. This process will take several months if not more than a year to conclude.

Bikes to Blooms

Discover spring wildflowers in bloom at Bikes to Blooms on Saturday, May 11th from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm at Bake Stewart Park. With a local expert as your guide, you're invited to explore a rare, remnant prairie and oak habitat along Dorena Lake. Bikes to Blooms is a free, educational event featuring activities for families and nature enthusiasts, including a morning bird walk, stewardship opportunities, educational booths hosted by local organizations and guided wildflower walks. Travel southeast of Cottage Grove and experience this ecologically valuable and scenic landscape and to see the southern Willamette Valley in bloom.

Event schedule and details include: 8:00 am - Bird Walk; 10:30 am - Wildflower Walk; 1:00 pm - Pollinator Walk. Booths will be open from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm with naturalists available to lead additional walks. All activities are accessible by car and carpooling is encouraged as parking is limited. Participants should bring a picnic lunch, water, weather-appropriate clothing and weed-free shoes. If cycling, wear a helmet and be cautious of variable trail conditions. Please leave dogs at home.

Bikes to Blooms is hosted in partnership with the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council (CFWWC), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service Cottage Grove Ranger District, Native Plant Society of Oregon, Walama Restoration Project, Kennedy High School and Cottage Grove Historical Society. For additional event information, visit www.coastfork.org, CFWWC Facebook page (@CoastFork), or call the CFWWC office at (541)767-9717.

Lions Club

The City Manager spoke at the Lions Club meeting on Thursday. He discussed recent impacts of the historic weather we have been having, emergency preparedness, the three bridges project, the Swinging Bridge project, Armory work and upcoming events.

Youth Advisory Council

The Cottage Grove Youth Advisory Council will be meeting on Monday, April 15th from 6:45 to 8:00 pm. The YAC will be putting together their plans for a Youth Town Hall to be held on June 5th.

NASA at the Library

The NASA national touring exhibit, *Discover Exoplanets, The Search for Alien Worlds*, continues to be on display at the Cottage Grove Public Library. We are in the final weeks of displaying this cool STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) infused exhibit, so please stop by the Cottage Grove Public Library by April 20th to check it out.

Exoplanet Film Festival

Thank you to the Library Staff and patrons of the Library for a great Exoplanet Film Festival season. We screened our final film this week, *Zathura*, which was enjoyed by an enthusiastic crowd of youth, tweens and teens. Wednesday afternoon films for kids and teens will continue at the Cottage Grove Public Library in the future, so please check out our web page for upcoming details and schedules.

Earth Day Celebration Schedule

Mayor Jeff Gowing and the Urban Forestry Committee invite you to attend the annual Earth Celebration at Coiner Park on Saturday, April 20th. At 3:00 pm, a representative from the Oregon Department of Forestry, Link Smith, will present to Mayor Gowing the City's 25th Tree City USA Award and its second Growth Award. Additionally, the Mayor will read the Arbor Day Proclamation and place a plaque recognizing the significance of this silver anniversary.

The schedule of events are:

- 8:00 am Bird & Nature Walk, (Meet at Row River Nature Park)
- 11:00 am Event opens with Earth Day blessing (at Coiner Park)
- 11:00 am Cottage Grove Drinking Water Treatment Plant Tour (transportation provided by South Lane Wheels)
- 11:15 am Trashion Show Preview (Opal Center)
- 11:30 am Almost Home takes the stage (music)
- 12:30 pm Cottage Grove Wastewater Treatment Plant Tour (transportation provided by South Lane Wheels)
- 2:00 pm Cowboy Cadillac takes the stage (music)
- 2:00 pm Singing Creek Biodynamic Farm Tour (transportation provided by South Lane Wheels)
- 3:00 pm Arbor Day Proclamation by Mayor Gowing w/ Oregon Community Trees
- 4:00 pm Event Concludes

Quote of the Week

"It's not the load that breaks you down, it's the way you carry it."

~Lena Horne~