

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Richard Meyers, City Manager
SUBJECT: Friday Update
DATE: October 9, 2020

Halloween Howl Cruise

The Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Cottage Grove and the City are excited to be holding the first (and hopefully last) Halloween Howl Cruise on Saturday, October 31st from 3:00 to 5:00 pm on Main Street from River Road to 7th Street. The cruise will be a drive-thru Halloween Trick or Treat event providing a COVID-19 safe activity. Trick or Treaters will remain in their vehicles. Vehicles will line up on South River Road and then drive-thru Main Street and receive treats from participating businesses or organizations. The treats will be packaged and presented to the children as they pass by on Main Street.

Holiday COVID-19 Guidelines

This week saw record infection numbers in Lane County and the State of Oregon. Our local public health officials want to stress the need for citizens to take precautions for their own health and for the health of others. Helpful guidelines for the upcoming holidays are available at from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A copy of the guidelines from the CDC is attached. The guidelines provide some very helpful tips on how to safely enjoy the holidays.



Beeper

The City Manager will be on KNND’s Beeper Show on Monday, October 12, 2020 from 9:00 to 10:00 am.

Cottage Grove Candidate Forum

The Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce and KNND will be holding a Virtual Cottage Grove Candidate Forum on Tuesday, October 27, 2020 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Candidates will be asked a set of questions created by the Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce Legislative Committee and audience members will be able to submit questions through chat. Watch for the virtual meeting information or contact the Chamber for specific information.

Youth Advisory Council

The City Manager is recruiting youth 7th through 12th grade age to be on the Cottage Grove Youth Advisory Council. This year's YAC will be a unique experience as we navigate the COVID-19 issues. Any youth interested should contact the City Manager's office to apply. The YAC plans to have their first meeting for 2020-21 virtually on Monday, October 19th.

Cottage Grove Library

The Curbside Pickup continues to grow in popularity at the Library. Anyone wishing to get material from the library can simply call ((541)942-3828) or email (library@cottagegrove.org) the library and let them know what you would like. They will put together the materials and make contact when the items are ready to schedule a date and time for pickup. Because of the popularity we will be bringing an additional librarian back to work to help at the library on October 30th. Visit the Library's webpage at www.cottagegrove.org and review the new items that the Library has or browse the card catalogue.

Last Day to Register to Vote

Wednesday, October 13th is the last day to register to vote for the November 3rd General Election. To register or check to see if you are registered, you can go to the Lane County website: <https://www.lanecounty.org/cms/one.aspx?pageId=4081147>.

Ballots will be mailed on October 15th. If you don't receive your ballot within a week, contact the Lane County Elections Department, (541) 682-4234. Once you have voted you can either mail in your ballot or you can deposit it at one of the Lane County Drop Sites located on the attached map. The drop site in Cottage Grove is located at the Community Center on Gibbs Avenue. If you choose to mail your ballot there is no postage required this year, however your ballot must be received by 8:00 pm on Election Day.

New Group Formed: Downtown Cottage Grove

The Cottage Grove Main Street Program and the Economic and Business Improvement District (EBID) formally merged and are now known as Downtown Cottage Grove. The Main Street Program and EBID have been partnering for years and shared similar goals. Downtown Cottage Grove will provide a unified network of individuals focused on the betterment of the Cottage Grove downtown. Downtown Cottage Grove will be staffed by Executive Director, Molly Murai, Resource Assistance for Rural Environments (RARE) Program member. If you have any questions, please contact Molly at (541)767-4129 or downtowncottagegrove@gmail.com.

Local Foods Local Places Workshop

The City of Cottage Grove would like to formally invite you to participate in our Local Foods Local Places Workshop, being held virtually November 5th and 6th, 2020.

Cottage Grove was one of 16 communities selected from across the nation by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture under the Local Foods, Local Places program in 2020 to help revitalize our Main Street and surrounding community through food systems and place-making initiatives.

The upcoming workshop will be a two-day brainstorming session, leading to a plan of action for better integrating local foods systems into Cottage Grove's economic recovery. We are asking farmers, producers, growers, restaurant owners, entrepreneurs, business owners, tourist organizations, non-profits, local government officials, etc. -- all of you who have a stake in our food system future -- to help us.

Please see the attached flyer and draft agenda. REGISTRATION IS FREE, and you can come and go as you see fit. Your participation in some way, however, is greatly desired.

Weekly Update #2 Southmayd Family

Our recent update this week included an interview at the site with Damien Sherwood of the Cottage Grove Sentinel. There should be an article in the paper on Wednesday, October 14th. We also met Rick Dancer at the site and developed a podcast that really seemed to be interesting to the folks as they watched it live. We were able to see many of the comments folks were making during the airing of it.

Our Go Fund Me account has grown to approximately \$14,000, and we have a “mysterious Mary” who has gotten ahold of me several times, indicating that she wants to help, and kind-of alludes to some additional help by an “organized group” but has yet to provide any specifics.... Exciting.

Additionally, I received a call yesterday from Eric Lopez of “Wounded Warriors” who expressed their desire to do all they can. At this point, Eric is a case worker who is taking our project up to a higher level and will get back to me soon.

Lastly, I was informed that R & H Excavating, was interested in helping “through the grapevine”, so I have a call into them to see what they may be able to do. At this point, I think something we could actually start concentrating on, is the need to scarf the building pad and bring in some gravel to build up the Northwest corner as needed.

Quote of the Week:

“Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time.”

~Ruth Bader Ginsburg~