

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Richard Meyers, City Manager

SUBJECT: Friday Update

DATE: September 18, 2020

Yard of the Week

This week the Yard of the Week is located at 718 S. 2nd Street. This cute yard is a beautiful example of what can be done in small spaces and was also designated as a sustainable yard by OSU. Next week is the last recognition for the 2020 Yard of the Week season.

The Clock is Ticking

As of now we are 12 days away from the end of the 2020 Census Count. The deadline for everyone to complete their 2020 Census is September 30th. As of September 17th the State of Oregon is at 96.9% of households counted and the remaining 3.1% is going to be the hardest part to count. Anyone that has not responded to the Census or that has not been contacted by Census workers can still go to 2020census.gov to complete the census.



Donations for Fire Impacted Families

Lane County Residents are amazing! Lane County posted the following this week on their FaceBook page:

The outpouring of generosity and care that Lane County residents have shown for everyone displaced or affected by wildfire is incredible.

The donations of goods received could literally fill buildings. Because so much has been given in a short period of time, we are asking **that everyone pause in donating goods and materials until what has already been received can be organized.**

Right now, the volume of donations is hindering the ability of community organizations to distribute needed goods to people.

Once community organizations have gotten a handle on the donations so far, they can help put out the call for specific items that are still needed.

Again, thank you for your generosity and your giving spirits. You will be asked to continue finding ways to support our neighbors and we have no doubt that you will all step up to the plate.

Additionally the Lane County 2020 Fire Relief will not be taking donations at the Masonic Lodge in Eugene after 7:30 pm Friday, September 18th. They are working on getting a more permanent location and will provide updates when they will be ready again and what will be needed.

We are not accepting any more donations of items at the Community Center until we are updated on what is needed. Please check the Cottage Grove Police Department FaceBook page for information about when we will be accepting donations again and what is needed.

Thank you for the amazing generosity. The recovery from this tragedy will be a long process so stay tuned for more information as the needs will change.

With all the wonderful donations and willingness to help our neighbors it is also important to remind everyone to be cautious. There are people that are willing to take advantage of our willingness to help for their own gain. Attached to the Friday Update is a copy of a flyer produced by the Oregon Department of Justice about wise giving.

Wildfire Information

The weather has brought big changes and relief from the smoke. From the statewide conference call hosted by the League of Oregon Cities we learned from the Oregon Department of Forestry representative report that the lightning from last night's storm did not create any new fire situations. The moisture also helped slow and even prevent some growth of the existing fires.

The State of Oregon has setup a webpage with all the current information about Oregon Wildfires at: wildfire.oregon.gov. Lane County has set up a webpage with information and resources specific to the Holiday Farm fire at lanecounty.gov/mckenziefire.

FEMA Assistance Available

Since the declaration of disaster was issued by the President, FEMA has begun taking applications for disaster assistance for individuals and businesses displaced by the wildfires. Disaster survivors can now apply for assistance. They can begin the process online at: disasterassistance.gov or call 1-800-621-3362. There is also a FEMA Assistance app that is available for download. Whichever method is chosen, the first step for assistance is to get registered with FEMA.

Police Department Assisting With Fire Zone Patrols

Starting on Saturday, September 12th and going through September 20th, 13 officers with the Cottage Grove Police Department will have worked on their weekends to assist the Lane County Sheriff's Office with Fire Zone Patrols in areas affected by the Holiday Farm Fire east of Springfield.

Fire Zone Patrols are responsible for roadblocks, shuttling personnel, patrolling evacuation areas, and contacting individuals in the area to determine the reason for their presence in the Fire Zone. Cottage Grove Officers work twelve hour shifts from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm for days and 6:00 pm to 6:00 am for nights.

Registering to Vote/Wildfire Displaced Voter FAQ

The deadline to register to vote for the November 3rd election is October 13th. If you would like to check to see if you are registered, you can go Lane County's website: <https://www.lanecounty.org/cms/one.aspx?pageId=4081147> and click on the Voter Registration drop down and follow the instructions.

If you are registered to vote and you or someone you know has been displaced by the wildfires, you can click on the link above and go to Wildfires – Voter Information to see how you can receive your ballot for the November 3rd election. The Lane County Elections flyer for Displaced Voter FAQ is attached.

City Supports Wildfire Fighters and Impacted Landowners

The Public Works & Development Department received a request from the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to fill their shower trailers with potable water and a place to dump their gray water from the trailers. City staff was able to accommodate both requests at the City Shop on 14th Street. This request is in support of ODF staff fighting the Archie Creek Fire south of Cottage Grove.

The department also provided potable water to a landowner that moved their cattle to a remote location near Cottage Grove out of harms way from the Holiday Farm Fire up the McKenzie. The water was needed for the cattle as water wasn't available at the new location.

Free Masks for Businesses

The City still has free masks available for local small businesses. Any business of 50 employees or less is eligible for the free masks. Stop by City Hall or contact the City Manager's office to get your free masks for employees.

National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating

The Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has announced that the City of Cottage Grove will increase to a Class 6 in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System. The floodplain management activities and programs implemented by the City that have resulted in the new class designation qualify NFIP policies issued or renewed in Special Flood Hazard Areas in the City for a 20% discount. This is a savings for many property owners in the community and will be significant as more community members will be required to participate in the NFIP after FEMA implements the new flood maps next year.

Cottage Village Open House

The Cottage Village Coalition hosted an Open House at the Cottage Village tiny home project today. Nine of the homes are completed and will be occupied tonight by the new residents. The

Mayor attended the Open House and welcomed several of the new residents to their homes. Work will be starting soon on the remaining homes.

Quote of the Week:

“Try to be a rainbow in someone’s cloud.”

~Maya Angelou~