

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Richard Meyers, City Manager

SUBJECT: Friday Update

DATE: October 8, 2021

### **Beeper**

The City Manager will be on KNND's Beeper Show on Monday, October 11<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 to 10:00 am.

### **Oregon Film Trail Signs**

The final three Oregon Film Trail signs in the Cottage Grove were installed by City Staff bringing the total to five. The Cottage Grove Film Trail signs recognize locations used in the filming of The General, Animal House, Stand By Me, Emperor of the North and Lost in the Stars. Thank you to the Oregon Film Office and the Cottage Grove Historical Society for making this project possible.

The signs are located in All-America Square, along the Row River Trail at 14<sup>th</sup> Street, at the Currin Covered Bridge, above Dorena Dam on the Row River Trail and at the end of the Row River Trail.

The Oregon Film Trail is a statewide network of recognizable trail markers, placed at significant filming locations and strategic points across Oregon. The Trail stitches together many communities, locations and notable films; it provides the scaffolding to connect, retell stories, and celebrate Oregon's rich contribution to filmmaking since the early 1900's. Oregon's film history constitutes hundreds of feature films & television shows (over 500 and growing) that have utilized thousands of locations around the state.

For more information about the Oregon Film Trail visit: [www.historicoregonfilmtrail.com/](http://www.historicoregonfilmtrail.com/).

### **New Color Downtown**

Maybe you noticed something new downtown. City staff completed the installation of the Cottage Grove Heritage Banners in the Historic Downtown District. The banners were commissioned by the Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce to promote three of the City's heritage offerings to tourists and residents. These heritage offerings include:

- The historic covered bridges;
- The historic downtown district; and
- The historic Northwest neighborhood.

The Heritage Banners include images of original watercolor paintings created by local artist Heather Endicott specifically for this project. Production of the banners was facilitated by Dirt Cheap Copies. The three banner designs reflect the seasons of spring, summer and fall. Nine banners are located along Main Street in the Historic Downtown District, and one is located on South 6<sup>th</sup> Street in front of the Woodard building. The project was funded by a grant from the Lane County Cultural Coalition and volunteer efforts of the Chamber's Tourism Committee.

### **Fire Season Ends**

In cooperation and coordination with partners at the Oregon Department of Forestry, South Lane County Fire and Rescue (SLCFR) ended the 2021 Fire Season on Tuesday, October 5, 2021. Public use restrictions in place during fire season are no longer in effect. The Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) will have the latest information on when open burning may commence. Please go to [www.lrapa.org](http://www.lrapa.org) or call the burn line (541) 726-3976 for information on outdoor burning.

### **Coffee With a Cop**

On Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 to 10:00 am visit the Cottage Grove Police Officers at McDonalds on Gateway to have Coffee with a Cop. Cottage Grove Police officers will be there to visit with those that stop by for a free cup McCafe small Premium Roast Coffee.

### **Reminder City Hall Closed Monday Morning**

City Hall will be closed Monday from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm to allow City Employees to clean up the City's records in preparation for their destruction.

### **September 2021 Building Inspection Services Report**

For the month of September the Building Division of the Public Works & Development Department issued 41 permits, 1 for a new single family manufactured home and performed 127 inspections in Cottage Grove. In Creswell 23 permits were issued, 1 for a single family home, and 76 inspections were performed. In Veneta, 13 permits were issued, one for a duplex, and 33 inspections were performed. In Cobourg 15 permits were issued and 34 inspections were performed. Staff reviewed and approved 20 plan sets in July and 22 plan sets are in review or on hold for additional information.

### **New Water Treatment Plant Employee**

The Public Works & Development Department would like to welcome Harley White to the Cottage Grove Water Treatment Plant Staff. Harley graduated from Linn Benton College with an Associate's Degree in Water Environmental Technology. He has worked the past two years for Luckimute Water District as a Utility Worker in Monmouth, Oregon. Ryan Kimball, Water Treatment Plant Superintendent is excited to have Harley on board and having the plant fully staffed.

### **Thank You Aaron Bloom and Tim Ogden**

Last week was Aaron Bloom's last day working for the Utility Division of the Public Works & Development Department. Aaron had worked for the City for three years. He started as a part time employee in the Maintenance Division and was hired full time in the Utility Division. He mastered many of the job duties and was a great member of the team.

Tim Ogden's last day was this past Tuesday. Tim worked at the Cottage Grove Wastewater Treatment Plant as an Operator-In-Training. Tim has been with the City for two years and three months. Tim is a very hard worker and prided himself with keeping the plant site in excellent condition. He also enjoyed gardening and created vegetable planters at the plant providing fresh vegetables in the summer months for staff.

Both Aaron and Tim will be missed and we wish them the best.

### **City Awarded DLCD Grant**

The City received notice this week that the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) awarded a Planning Assistance Grant for the City's Affordable Housing Strategy Implementation Plan application. The plan will review and analyze current programs such as the Multi Unit Property Tax Exemption (MUPTE) and look at other programs the City Council could adopt to support creation of affordable housing.

This grant will cover the costs of hiring a consultant to work with the City in creating the plan. DLCD has chosen ECONorthwest as the consultant for the project. The next steps are drafting a scope of work and forming an Advisory Committee made up of City Councilors and key stakeholders to work with City Staff and ECONorthwest creating the plan. The final plan is expected to be completed and ready for City Council consideration next July 2022.

### **RAIN Oregon Seeking Applicants**

RAIN Oregon has an opening for an Entrepreneur-in-Community (EIC) position for their work in Cottage Grove. This position will be the local entrepreneurial community champion for Cottage Grove. The EIC is the “eyes and ears” on the ground and will be expected to provide support (in-person and remote) for activities, event organizing and promotion, outreach and recruitment, and entrepreneurial ecosystem building. The EIC will learn by doing and shadowing Cottage Grove’s Rural Venture Catalyst.

The EIC is a contractor for RAIN and is compensated \$1,000 per month including reimbursement for pre-approved event expenses. The position is required to organize 1-2 RAIN-hosted events and 1-2 activities, acting as an RAIN Ambassador at events hosted by partners (e.g., *Chamber events, SBDC events, City Council meetings, Rotary meetings, Economic Development Committee meetings, Lane County Economic Development meetings, etc.*) For more information regarding the position please go to <https://www.oregonrain.org/open-positions/>.

RAIN has extended the deadline for application submission to October 15, 2021 with interviews the week of October 18<sup>th</sup>. This is a great opportunity to work in Cottage Grove with local businesses and entrepreneurs improving the economy and the success of our local businesses.

### **Weekly Update #52 Southmayd Home Build Project** (By Jason Bush)

There really is not a lot to report this week. I am still trying to get the wall and vault insulation installed. There are still some minor adjustments that need to be done, but we do have all our Lane County inspections approved up through the rough-in stage. I will get them out for the insulation

inspection as soon as we get it installed. I messed up on the front door swing, but we have determined it actually is better the way I ordered it; however, that means a little adjustment with the adjacent lighting switches, so need the electricians to fix that aspect for me.

Knez has our sheetrock in their warehouse, and Donnie is helping me coordinate with Hamilton Drywall Products for the mud, tape, texturing compound, and corner pieces. We are still waiting to hear back from Jim Johnson with Hamilton Drywall Products.

Wade Stevens and I have hauled another three loads of sand and gravel, so we are getting very close to having enough to build up the porches and garage for ADA access. Some of the guy's helping us have been out sick, so that has set us back a week or so. Hopefully they're starting to feel better. Once we get the rock spread and compacted, I will be getting a concrete crew out to set patio forms and prepare the garage slab. I'm really hoping we get the site improved and ready before the hard rains hit. Sounds like Nolan will be working on it today or Monday. He indicated he will get the water line dug first, so that we can get it inspected and backfilled.

David Dougherty, Principal of Dougherty Landscape Architects is scheduled to meet me at the Southmayd site on Monday to start the design of a quiet, peaceful low maintenance, outdoor area, just off the therapy room. We're trying to create a "healing" type garden of Eden for Jayson.

Chris Smith sent us a rendering of the kitchen cabinets that Glenn Hastings created for Jayson & Misty to review. Misty was very excited to see what they will look like. I think Glenn will be coming out to explain the design to the Southmayds as well as answer any questions they may have.

The siding crew will be starting a week later than we thought. I think all the remaining materials are on site except the siding itself, which should have arrived on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September. I have a call into Square Deal.

#### *Quote of the Week*

*"The wise man does at once what the fool does finally."*

*~Niccolo Machiavelli~*