

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Richard Meyers, City Manager

SUBJECT: Friday Update

DATE: December 10, 2021

It's Going To Be A Green Christmas

Our holiday lights in Bohemia Park and downtown are going green this season with help from participants of Pacific Power's Blue Sky renewable energy program. The environmental benefits represent a reduction of 2,266 pounds of CO₂e associated with the electricity used for our holiday lights. If you are a Pacific Power customer, you can do the same at home by enrolling in Pacific Power's Blue Sky renewable energy program – and it's easy. Join over 80,000 Pacific Power homes and businesses, including your neighbors already supporting Blue Sky. The City of Cottage Grove participates in the Blue Sky program with Pacific Power and the EPUD Green Power programs at 100% levels. In 2020, through participation in the programs prevented 2,277 Metric Tons of CO₂e. Which is equivalent to the greenhouse emissions from 495 passenger vehicles driven for one year or 5,721,605 miles driven by an average passenger vehicle. Visit www.joinbluesky.com for more information or to sign up today.

Homelessness

The City Manager met with representatives from SquareOne and Carry It Forward and discussed options to address homelessness in Cottage Grove. They visited the Warming Center, Community Center and other sites in the community frequented by homeless individuals. They reviewed options and proposals and may have some additional suggestions Monday.

Christmas Kickoff and Santa

Thank you to everyone that helped make the Christmas Kickoff in Bohemia Park a huge success on Saturday. Santa and Mrs. Claus had a great time meeting everyone that stopped by to visit them. Over 1,600 bowls of soup were given out, forty beautiful trees decorated by local businesses were given away. The City gave out nearly 400 cups of hot apple cider and 240 bags of cookies. Over 400 photos were taken of community members visiting with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Thank you to all the volunteers that made the entire evening a success for the community.

Final Annual Leaf Pick-Up

Most of the leaves around town have fallen from the trees around the City. Beginning next Monday, December 13th the final round of leaf pickup starts. City staff will be working to pick up residential piles of leaves placed in approved areas along City streets.

Residents are allowed to place leaves on City streets in on street parking sites near the street gutter without blocking it. Please don't block bike and traffic lanes or place leaves on streets with

no on street parking. There is a leaf dump site at the Row River Water Treatment Plant at 3300 Row River Road or in the pull out lanes on River Road. Do not put your leaves in plastic bags. Place leaves only in your piles, no branches, shrub pruning, blackberry vines, lawn clippings, rocks, metal or other debris.

Thank you for helping to keep leaves out of the City stormwater drainage system allowing the rain to flow out of the City in the drainage system without flooding properties. For additional information or questions regarding the leaf pickup please call the City Public Works and Development Department at (541) 942-3349.

New Assistant Planner

The Public Works & Development Department would like to welcome Matt Laird to the Planning Division. Matt is the new Assistant Planner. He has over 20 years of planning experience working in several cities and counties around Oregon. The Planning Division is excited to have Matt join their team. His planning experience in Oregon is extensive and allows him to hit the ground running helping citizens in Cottage Grove meet their development needs.

New Police Officer

The Police Department's newest hire is Soleil Gordon. Gordon started on Monday, December 6th and will begin her training program with Field Training Officer Jason Huckins. Gordon was born and raised in Cottage Grove and is realizing her dream of becoming a Police Officer for the Cottage Grove Police Department. With the addition of Gordon, the department now has three female police officers.

The department is conducting interviews on Tuesday, December 14th and Wednesday, December 15th for an additional full-time Police Officer position. Once the panel interview is conducted, selected individuals will be interviewed by the Chief of Police Scott Shepherd. Once the successful candidates are selected, they then move to an extensive background check, psychological and medical examination.

Weekly Update #60 Southmayd Home Build Project *(By Jason Bush)*

Back in weekly update, #35 I think it was, Jayson told me that Misty and the family were finally allowing themselves to envision the real possibilities of the new home; allowing some excitement to seep out privately amongst themselves; to start thinking of when they will move in, how they will decorate it, and set it up to fit their needs; and, how overwhelmingly thankful they are to all the folks that have helped make this become “their” reality....

There was a time this past winter, before anything had been constructed other than the engineered subgrade itself, when I would stop by the Southmayds to check on them. We would discuss possibilities, options, and what-if's until I would stipulate upon leaving,“Doc, now, don't you worry, we're going to get you a safe and comfortable new home built—nothing for you to be concerned about!” After all, isn't that what doctors tell us when we're hurt and in need of care, to help reassure us that everything will be okay?

Then I would go home and almost break down thinking of the monstrosity of what I had originally committed to. There was definitely a long road ahead with little to no road signs for

direction or guidance. Then the list of folks I could turn to started growing & growing, as you have all read about over the course of the last year and a half. Now I can say with a full dose of confidence, that I am very excited, excited on every front, excited that the momentum that I was always so worried about losing, is actually picking up. And, finally, I am extremely excited to announce that we have another new sponsor. A power house of a new patriotic sponsor, “Grunt Style”.

Grunt Style, is a Veteran owned company that specializes in shirts designed with the fighting American spirit in mind. The shirts always carry the American Flag on the right shoulder, and the infamous crossed muskets on the left with the strong words “THIS WE’LL DEFEND.” I do not honestly think I have ever seen Jayson wearing any shirt but a Grunt Style shirt, and I can also say I have a pretty good collection of the beer-belly guarantee the shirts carry, which can be found at www.gruntstyle.com.

It was on Monday that the Director of The Grunt Style Foundation, Tiffany Orner, a proud Air Force Veteran, called to inform me that she had organized the various stories, project information, and other documents I had been providing her, to the Board of Directors of Grunt Style, and that support for our SHB project has been approved. I introduced Tiffany directly to Cindy McGrew, Founder of Operation Second Chance, who helped her through the donation process. I did not ask, and do not know how much the check was, but Cindy indicated that I will be pleased. Tiffany and I had a wonderful discussion, and it sounds like she will be trying to fit a trip down to visit the site, which is very exciting, as I know that the Southmayd family and I would love to meet her, tour her of the new home, discuss future possibilities, and leave her with a lasting impression of what can happen with un-permitted construction work. We thank Tiffany and Grunt Style for their support and sponsorship of our Veterans, and especially thankful they have put their trust in our efforts with this great project.

Todd Loydd, owner of Bonn Roof Care has already been out to the site and measured up our gutters and downspouts. He explained many options and preventative care measures that will be very important for the Southmayds in the future. I contacted High Cascade Painting & Construction to let them know that we are ready for exterior paint and to put us on their schedule. You may recall from weekly update #14, that I had introduced High Cascade, because they we’re another company that reached out to me first. They have us down as ready, just as soon as Misty gets me the paint color codes.

Another great development that stemmed from our friends at Priority One and the Get Real with Rick Dancer podcast we did last Wednesday, is that Narelle Hooker, owner of McKenzie Stone & Tile heard us, and as she indicated in her touching email to me below;

“I’m sorry I missed you!! I’m beyond excited to be a part of this project! I have a great conversation with Jayson yesterday and am ready to go to work on it as soon as I have more information on what the needs are. I have a ton of connections in the home supplies industry so I will be reaching out beyond our doors when I know more about the project and specifically the needs and desires of Jayson and his wife.”

I had stopped in to meet Narelle, this week, but missed her. I did have the additional pleasure of meeting one of their sales representatives named Sheri Johnson. She indicated she knew me, and had discussed her own construction project in Creswell with me several times this past year. Sheri used to own her own tile store in California, has a lot of product in storage, and indicated she probably has enough to do the bathrooms if we could use it. So, we want to express our thanks to Narelle, Sheri, and McKenzie Stone & Tile.

Mike Jensen, Sr. Building Safety Specialist with Lane County was kind enough to schedule wall & vault insulation, under-floor insulation, and a gas pressure test inspection(s) for us on Tuesday. That's technically my job, and I appreciate Mike. Hartness Drywall should be out to evaluate the project this next week, so that they can get started in planning their work.

Lastly, if there is anyone who still has an invoice that needs attention, whether it's something payable, or simply for a tax-deductible receipt, please send it in to me. Also, if you have a logo that has not been sent to me, we would really enjoy adding it to the website www.operationsecondchance.org I would still like to plant you yard sign for anyone who has not provided one yet.

Weekly Update #61 Southmayd Home Build Project *(By Jason Bush)*

It was a pretty busy week for us. Dale Wagoner, owner of Insul 8 completed the insulation install, and we passed all four Lane County inspections which included under-floor insulation, wall & vault insulation, and a gas pressure test. This clears the way to start the sheetrock.

I met Ryan Magallanes, estimator for David Hartness Drywall on Monday who gave me some things to do before they could sheet rock, and that they planned on starting Tuesday morning. I needed to get the pocket door frames installed "yesterday", and also needed to rent some big propane heaters, get plastic sheeting on the overhead doors, and re-frame a 42" door down to 36." So, I went into panic mode, called Lee at Discount windows who was stuck in a Nevada airport, called around for a contractor who may be able to help on such short notice, and then started calling rental shops to get the heaters. It was looking like I might have to stop the sheet rockers, but then Lee at Discount Windows came through and had the pocket door frames delivered Thursday night. That was followed up with more good news by Shameron Stevenson, owner of Lucky Builders, returning my call. Shameron went to work rearranging some of his crew's schedule so that he could send a couple guys out today, so we dodged another bullet. A huge thanks to Shameron and Lee, who know how to get things done!

In trying to locate the propane heaters, I ended up calling Sunbelt Rentals and speaking with Rebecca O'Neal, Equipment Rental Specialist. She was very helpful, and upon stopping in to pick them up, we started discussing the SHB project, which led to the fact that in 2016, Sunbelt Rentals, which has multiple stores in every state, went into partnership with the Gary Sinise Foundation (GSF). They provide all the tools and equipment to the contractors, at no cost, for each house the Foundation builds for our Veterans. I had attempted to get the GSF on board and went through the "contact us" process, but after 40 minutes, lost everything, so abandoned it, until now. They also donate a portion of rental proceeds to the GSF. Rebecca gave me some flyers on the partnership, so I plan on getting in touch with their corporate headquarters, to see if it could lead to something more than a couple propane heaters. Thank you so much Rebecca.

Brian Way, owner of Way to Go Construction delivered four, 12 yard loads of sand and two of 3/4- gravel, which should bring us very close to being able to start our flatwork. His big trucks had no problem going down the new driveway Wade and I constructed. Nolan Booher said he will come back out next week to spread and compact it down, so I will be getting ahold of some flatwork guys and revisiting with Knife River and River Bend.

We are now getting close to finish work on both the inside and outside. The painters are watching the weather and trying to get the exterior painted, so that the gutters can be installed. I have started sending group emails to coordinate timelines, colors, styles, and other options only the Southmayds can make in regards to cabinets, counters, floor coverings, and general finish options.



Quote of the Week

“Retirement may be an ending, a closing, but it is also a new beginning.”

~Catherine Pulsifer~