

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Richard Meyers, City Manager
SUBJECT: Friday Update
DATE: December 3, 2021

Santa is Coming, Santa is Coming!

Tomorrow the man in the Big Red suit will be joining the celebration in Bohemia Park to light the Christmas Tree at 5:00 pm. After the tree lighting Santa and Mrs. Claus will be at the Bohemia Park Pavilion till 7:30 for pictures with kids of all ages. There will be fun activities and treats in the Bohemia Park amphitheater even some beautifully decorated Christmas trees that will be given away at the end of the evening. All this fun and excitement will run from 5:00 to 8:00 pm in Bohemia Park on Saturday, December 4th. Come down to the park and help kick off the holiday season in Cottage Grove.

Employee Appreciation – Years of Service Awards

Wednesday, City staff joined together to have an employee appreciation lunch in the Armory. All staff in attendance were introduced and several awards were presented. Jarrod Butler was presented with a special plaque recognizing K9 officer Kimber's retirement. Years of service awards were presented to the following:

5 Years of Service

Ron Smith
Natasha Chitow
Herb Hill
Wendie Jackson
Adam Butler

10 Years of Service

Jarrod Butler
Shawn Branstetter
Shauna Bailey
Mandy Biehler

15 Years of Service

Jeffrey Violette
Steve Norman
Pete Keenan

20 Years of Service

Dale Smith

Congratulations to all the service award recipients. Thank you to all the employees for your dedicated service and contributions to the community.

Wastewise Holidays: Make Memories Not Waste *(From WasteWise Lane County)*

According to the Center for Biological Diversity, the United States creates 5.8 million more tons of waste in December than in any other month of the year. That's equivalent to 28,713 Boeing 747 airplanes.



Spend more time with loved ones this holiday season by getting crafty and using recyclable materials to create festive holiday decorations and giftwrap can help reduce the environmental impact of your holiday while creating fun new memories.

“One of the most effective ways to reduce the carbon footprint of your holiday – aside from reducing food waste – is to focus on reusing materials you already have on hand to create decorations and gifts,” said Lane County Master Recycler Program Coordinator Kelly Bell. “Do-it-yourself ideas are easy to find on websites like Pinterest or SimplifyTheHolidays.org.”

Give DIY a try:

- Use old greeting cards or used wrapping paper to make wreaths, tree ornaments, gift tags, snowflakes, garlands, bunting or other cheerful holiday decorations.
- Have a gift-making get together and create soup mixes, hot chocolate kits, bath products, or other crafts to give as gifts during the holiday season. Many ingredients can be purchased in bulk, which saves on cost and single-use packaging.
- Decorate cereal or shoe boxes to use as gift boxes, and use comics, maps, calendars or fabric in place of wrapping paper.

A 2019 poll from the Center for a New American Dream found that 3 out of 4 Americans wish that holidays were less materialistic. Creating DIY decorations and gifts is one way to prioritize making lasting holiday memories with children and loved ones that enrich the holiday experience, save money and reduce waste.

WasteWise Lane County offers education, tools and resources that residents, schools, and businesses can use to reduce waste, conserve resources and live more sustainably. Visit www.LaneCountyOR.gov/wastewise to learn more.

SCAM ALERT

The Social Security Administration will never threaten, scare, or pressure you to take an immediate action.

If you receive a call, text, or email that...

- Threatens to suspend your Social Security number, even if they have part or all of your Social Security number
- Warns of arrest or legal action
- Demands or requests immediate payment
- Requires payment by gift card, prepaid debit card, internet currency, or by mailing cash
- Pressures you for personal information
- Requests secrecy
- Threatens to seize your bank account

- Promises to increase your Social Security benefit
- Tries to gain your trust by providing fake "documentation," false "evidence," or the name of a real government official

... it is a SCAM!

Do not give scammers money or personal information – Ignore Them!

Protect yourself and others from Social Security-related scams:

- Try to stay calm. Do not provide anyone with money or personal information when you feel pressured, threatened, or scared.
- Hang up or ignore it. If you receive a suspicious call, text, or email, hang up or do not respond. Government employees will not threaten you, demand immediate payment, or try to gain your trust by sending you pictures or documents.
- Report Social Security-related scams. If you receive a suspicious call, text, or email that mentions Social Security, ignore it and report it to the [SSA Office of the Inspector General \(OIG\)](#). Do not be embarrassed if you shared personal information or suffered a financial loss.
- Get up-to-date information. Follow SSA OIG on Twitter @TheSSAOIG and [Facebook @SSA Office of the Inspector General](#) for the latest information on Social Security-related scams. Visit the [Federal Trade Commission](#) for information on other government scams.
- Spread the word. Share your knowledge of Social Security-related scams. Post on social media using the hashtag #SlamtheScam to share your experience and warn others. Visit <https://oig.ssa.gov/scam> for more information. Please also share with your friends and family.

November 2021 Building Inspection Services Report

For the month of November, the Building Division of the Public Works & Development Department issued 75 permits, 1 for a new single family home and performed 173 inspections in Cottage Grove. In Creswell 16 permits were issued and 73 inspections were performed. In Veneta, 11 permits were issued and 36 inspections were performed. In Cobourg 3 permits were issued and 29 inspections were performed. Staff reviewed and approved 17 plan sets in November and 18 plan sets are in review or on hold for additional information.

New Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator In Training

Last Wednesday was Daniel Boyd's first day working at the Cottage Grove Wastewater Treatment Plant as an Operator-in-Training. Daniel is certified in pump repair and maintenance. He has over 10 years' experience working on water and sewer utilities. The Wastewater Treatment Division is excited to have Daniel join their team.

Congratulations Melany Klemmer

Melany Klemmer recently received notice that she passed her Residential Electrical Inspector exam through the State of Oregon's Building Codes Division. Over the past 4 years Melany has completed course training, passed proficiency exams, and earned all the certificates available to Residential Building Inspectors. Melany holds certificates for residential plan review, structural, mechanical, plumbing, and electrical inspections. This is no small accomplishment. While she

studied for the certifications, she managed all the building permit applications from Cottage Grove, Creswell, Veneta, and Coburg from intake of new applications to issuing permits, training staff, and answering daily questions and requests for information. The City is thankful for Melany, all her hard work, and contributions in making Cottage Grove's Building Permit Program one of the best in Oregon.

Home Share Oregon

Are you looking for an affordable housing option? Do you own your home and have an extra room to rent out? Home Share Oregon offers a secure matching process to help find a compatible, safe, and responsible housemate. To learn more about this affordable housing option, contact Judy Smith, the Area Representative for Home Share Oregon in Lane County, at (541)221-1390, or by email at judy@homeshareoregon.org. To learn more about this program visit homeshare.oregon.org.

Street Closures: S. 10th Street and Tyler Avenue

Meili Construction Company will be installing sanitary sewer and storm drainage facilities within the intersection of S. 10th Street and Tyler Avenue next week, December 6, 2021 through December 10, 2021. This work will require the streets to be closed in this area. Later in the week, it may be possible to have one-lane traffic depending on the progress of the work.

Please avoid this area if possible and plan accordingly to ensure on-time arrival to your destination.

Quote of the Week

“You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.”

~C.S. Lewis~