

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Richard Meyers, City Manager

SUBJECT: Friday Update

DATE: March 5, 2021

Beeper

The City Manager will be on KNND's Beeper Show on Monday, March 8th from 9:00 to 10:00 am.

Regional Fiber Consortium Meeting

The City Manager attended the annual meeting of the Regional Fiber Consortium Executive Committee. The executive committee discussed renewals of fiber subleases and the 21-22 Budget for the Consortium. The City Manager was elected to serve as the chair of the Executive Committee for another year.

February 2021 Building Inspection Services Report

For the month of February the Building Division of the Public Works & Development Department issued 37 permits, 2 for single family homes, and performed 101 inspections in Cottage Grove. In Creswell 21 permits were issued and performed 55 inspections. In Veneta, 15 permits were issued and 123 inspections were performed. In Cobourg 13 permits were issued, 2 for new single family homes, and 22 inspections were performed. Staff reviewed and approved 20 plan sets in February and 15 plan sets are in review or on hold for additional information.

Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act

Connected Lane County receives funding from the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act to offer youth opportunities to work for organizations for youth to learn new skills and gain valuable work experiences. Connected Lane County works to place the youth in jobs they have interest in and pays their wages along with all associated costs such as; clothing, boots, safety equipment, and payroll expenses. Cottage Grove recently partnered with Connected Lane County to place youth in the Public Works and Development Department.

On Monday Nathan DeYoung and Ben Garely started working with the Maintenance Staff. Staff is mentoring each youth in areas they have interest. Nathan is interested in facility and property management and Ben is interested in vehicle and equipment repairs and maintenance. The youth will work with City staff to learn new skills and gain work experiences. Both youth will work for one month with the option to work longer provided they are interested and the arrangement is working for the City. It is possible for more youth to be placed through Connected Lane County in other areas throughout the City such as the treatment plants, golf course, City Hall, and the Community Center.

City Wide Automated Water Meter Upgrade

On Tuesday the City Utility Crew replaced the final mechanical water meter with a new automated meter. The project replaced 4,037 meters and took approximately 14 months to complete. The automated water meters send water usage totals every 15 minutes to the City Utility Billing Clerk's computer. In the past 2 Utility Crew members would physically read each meter in the City taking approximately on average 7 days. Today the information is sent electronically to the Finance Department allowing monthly water usage statements to be calculated each month on the same day.



The automated meters are programmed to send alarm notices to the Utility Billing Clerk when water usage is out of the accounts normal range such as, water being used at a constant rate for a 24 hr period conflicting with past usage. The Clerk reviews the account and notifies the property owner of the usage and the possibility of a water leak. In the most recent months the Clerk has called customers regarding potential leaks. Successfully identifying problems before they cause potential damage and/or higher water bills. In December 2020 there were 12 calls made, January 2021 -16 calls made and February 2021 -15 calls made.

By working with the customer

directly most of the issues are resolved quickly reducing the number of leak checks requiring a technician to perform a service request. In a three month period (Dec. Jan. Feb.) call out requests were reduced by 27 callouts. The Utility Billing Clerk anticipates the number of technician required leak checks to continue to decrease as we are able to make good use of the reports, alerts, and information that the system is providing.

The new automated water meters are reducing operating costs, alerting customers of potential waterline leaks and breaks, and allowing the Utility crew to focus on making repairs and upgrades to other City infrastructure.



Sewer Line Repairs

On Wednesday, Underground Tech repaired a broken sewer line in the alley behind El Tapatio on 7th Street. Underground Tech was able to repair two breaks totaling 5 feet in length. They used a new technology to enter in the sewer line from the manhole and make the repairs without disturbing the paving and digging a trench to make the repair. The repair was made in less than a day as opposed to 2 days using the excavation method for repair.

Wednesday Wildish replaced the failed sewer line on South M Street where a large sink hole was reported. They replaced approximately 105' of old sewer line and restored the sink hole and surrounding property. The job was completed late Thursday afternoon.

Lane County Bicycle Master Plan (BMP) Open House

Please mark your calendar and participate in the upcoming online LCBMP Open House beginning March 8th through the 22nd.

Lane County wants to understand your experience using Lane County's rural roads and paved paths through the project's online interactive mapping tool.

Want more to explore? A live session with the planners is available on March 16 4-6:00 p.m. Please visit the Events page on <https://lanecountybmp.com> to join the live conversation.



Lane County is developing its first ever Bicycle Master Plan (BMP) with the vision to make:

Bicycling a viable regional transportation option throughout Lane County for people of all ages and abilities, linking communities to destinations and services, and connecting where we live, work, and play.

This effort focuses on Lane County's rural roads and its paved paths outside of the Eugene-Springfield urban area. As an amendment to the Lane County Transportation System Plan, the BMP will go before the Lane County Board of Commissioners for adoption with recommendations to improve the:

- SAFETY AND COMFORT for people who bike and all roadway users.
- CONNECTIVITY of regional bicycling between rural communities and the urban area.
- EQUITY of access to convenient, safe, and affordable means of transportation.
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT opportunities for bicycle tourism related businesses.
- PUBLIC HEALTH benefits from expanded active transportation.

To learn more about the planning process, schedule, review the bi-lingual fact sheet and sign up for e-updates, please visit [Lane County Bicycle Master Plan](#) or contact the BMP Project Manager, Becky Taylor, at Becky.taylor@lanecountyor.gov, (541) 255-5761.

Weekly Updates #20 Southmayd Family (by Jason Bush)

The International Code Council's (ICC) Building Safety Journal published a story about the Southmayd family project in their weekly on-line publication on Thursday. "Oregon Building Official Leads Rescue For Veteran and His Family Following Faulty Home Repairs." The link to the story is below. As I started to read the story, many emotions flooded my overwhelmed senses and I had to put it down for a period, but the story is very nicely written, and we are very grateful to have the ICC team helping us get the word out there. Jack Applegate reposted the story on his linked-in account and had almost 500 views in less than 24 hours.

This publication goes out to approximately 110,000 building industry colleague's, and will also be pushed on several social media platforms according to their Managing Editor, Tara Lukasik. In further discussions this morning with Madison Neal, Director of Communications, she is providing the ICC logo for our website and she also stated that they would be happy to publish an update in 6 months or so. Thank you ICC! The story can be found here:

<https://www.iccsafe.org/building-safety-journal/bsj-perspectives/oregon-building-official-leads-rescue-for-veteran-and-his-family-following-faulty-home-repairs/>

The Go Fund Me account will be shut down very soon, and all the funds transferred into the Operation Second Chance fund. They will administer them for us, to include issuing checks for materials, supplies and labor as needed. We are hoping to accomplish this on Monday.

We are making some progress on tracking down a contractor that can hopefully give us a reasonable bid to get the home framed up. Once dried in, I will again assume a bigger role in finishing it up. It would be so nice to be in a position to get them moved in by late summer. In researching my options, I went back through the many hundreds of business cards collected over the years and came up with some great resources. Dan Cooper of DC Fine Homes does not retain his own framing crew, but does have interior finishers on staff. He is checking into the possibility of helping out with interior trim, door installations, and other finish work, and I can attest that Dan does FINE work. Thank you Dan!

I approached Jerry's for some roofing materials, and again, due to the recent fires, their donation accounts are almost depleted, BUT, did unexpectedly give Misty and Jayson a \$1750 gift card! So, I will take that down to Lowes and Home Depot to see if they could possibly match it which might be enough to provide floor coverings and other interior materials. A big thank you to the Jerry's team!

Yours in Building Safety, "and" Guarding Our Veterans,

Quote of the Week:

"With the new day comes new strength and new thoughts."

~Eleanor Roosevelt~