

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Richard Meyers, City Manager

SUBJECT: Friday Update

DATE: April 2, 2021

Library in the Park

Join our Library Staff in the Park on Tuesdays from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm for Library in the Park at the Bohemia Park Pavilion. Staff will be bringing a selection of books for all ages to the Park that will be available for checkout. They will also will be able to sign up library cards, help reserve items and will distribute curbside pickup items. Drop in and experience a StoryWalk®. Come and visit with your library staff and share ideas of what you might like at the next Library in the Park.

Youth Advisory Council

The Cottage Grove Youth Advisory Council will be meeting virtually on Monday, April 5, 2021. The YAC will be reviewing and providing input to If I Were Mayor contest entries.

If I Were Mayor Contest

The Cottage Grove City Council is participating in the Oregon Mayors Association's student "If I Were Mayor ..." contest. The deadline for youth to enter is quickly approaching on Friday, April 16th at 5:00 pm.

Youth in the community are invited to enter:

- Poster Contest for 4th and 5th grade students are invited to participate in a poster contest with local prizes of 1st Place -\$50 and 2nd Place - \$25.
- Essay Contest for 6th through 8th grade students are invited to participate in an essay contest with local prizes of 1st Place \$75 and 2nd Place of \$50.
- Digital Media Presentations for 9th through 12th grade students are invited to participate in a digital media presentations with local prizes of 1st Place \$100 and 2nd Place \$50.

The City Council will be awarding the local prizes at that April 26th City Council Meeting. The local 1st Place winners will be entered into the Oregon Mayors Association's statewide contest. For information on how to enter and further details about the contest follow the link of the City Council's site at: <https://www.cottagegroveor.gov/citycouncil>.

Tree Branch and Limb Pickup

The City's annual Tree Branch and Limb pickup is only about a month away. With the upcoming opportunities for great weather, now is the time to trim and start collecting the limbs and branches to put out for the City crews to pick up. The first round of the Tree Branch and Limb pickup will begin on May 3rd.



The Tree Branch and Limb pickup is meant to provide an opportunity for residents to trim trees and shrubs specifically those trees and shrubs that are located along streets and sidewalks and dispose of those materials at no cost. Trees are supposed to be trimmed up 8 feet above sidewalks and over 13 feet above the street. We ask residents to pay particular attention to those trees and their impact on the sidewalks and streets. Make sure that no tree branches block signs. In addition to trimming the trees that are along streets and sidewalks residents should feel free to trim all the other trees and shrubs on their property. For more information about the Tree Branch and Limb Pickup program visit the City's website and follow the links to the Tree Branch Pickup.

Police Department Recruitment Updates

This week the Police Department conducted interviews for Communication Specialists. The top candidates first interviewed with a panel and then moved on to a Chief's interview. Final candidates will then go on to the background check, psychological evaluation and medical testing.

The recruitment for Police Officers closed on March 26th and Police Department Staff are currently reviewing the list of applicants and the next step will be to schedule interviews.

"Seeing Main Street in a Whole New Light" Presentation & Consultations

On Monday, March 29th, the City of Cottage Grove partnered with Downtown Cottage Grove and the State Historic Preservation Office Certified Local Government Program to offer a free workshop to all interested parties on exterior building & retail lighting. Ten local business representatives attended. This workshop, titled "Seeing Main Street in a Whole New Light", was taught by Seanette Corkill, the owner of Frontdoor Back, a store design & visual merchandising firm.

Seanette's motivation for putting this "Seeing Main Street in a Whole New Light" session together was that she has found that a common and consistent **MISS** for commercial historic districts and their retailers is lighting. Because of that, there's an opportunity and a need to educate people so we could begin assessing and addressing this important aspect of our downtown.

Seanette had 5 concepts for us to take away:

1. Why you should invest in lighting – lighting your DISTRICT and lighting your STORE.
2. The 6 distinct layers that create a comprehensive and effective district lighting plan.
3. Important Lighting concepts and terms that you need to know.
4. Once you know those terms and concepts, Determine what color light is best for you.
5. Start noticing light in all its forms. Is it working FOR you or AGAINST you?

On the following day, Seanette and City Planner Amanda Ferguson visited four downtown businesses who had specifically asked for a lighting consultation. These consultations provided an opportunity to ask questions and address specific lighting needs at each building, and each ended with a prioritized list of improvement projects including detailed recommendations for the purchase of fixtures, lamps, etc. Formal consultations were held at 5 Flying Monkeys, Crafty Mercantile, Coast Fork Brewstation & Feed Store, and Covered Bridge Brewing. On the way, Seanette provided informal consults to the Chamber of Commerce, the Bank Building and T&K Creations.

The presentation and consultations were funded through a Certified Local Government grant the City received through the State Historic Preservation Office and the National Park Service. For more information, please contact Amanda Ferguson, City Planner, at planner@cottagegrove.org. You can also contact Seanette Corkill at seanette@frontdoorback.com.

Weekly Updates #242 Southmayd Family (by Jason Bush)

I did not do a weekly update last week (#23) as I was working on a framing crew and did not have much to report, and a framer is our top priority right now.

The rebar manufacturer has not returned calls or emails for several months now, so will plan on obtaining it through Parr Lumber or Square Deal—hopefully at their cost. It would be nice if Parr could get it for us. That way they can deliver everything we will need for the foundation preparation in one trip, as they have all the other materials we will need stored on site.

Ewing, with Blue Star Gas did an overlay of our LPG system, and Robert Coryell printed out a couple addendum plans to have on site. This indicates where the LPG tank will go, and where we will run the lines to the gas fireplace, gas water heater, and gas range.

I did run into Mike Markham, of Mike Markham Concrete on Wednesday, who indicated he would be interested in helping with some of the concrete flatwork. A specialty item we could certainly use his expertise on.

Have not heard anything back from any members of the Home Builders Association. Ed did a nice job of integrating my one-page request for bids for a framing crew into their weekly newsletter.

Persistence has paid off, as I received a bid that fits within our budget from a Cottage Grove contractor, after discussing it with him on Tuesday. Prior to announcing, it I need to finalize some specifics with him. This is very exciting as I think we will be meeting with the foundation crew early next week to fine tune the start of the foundation. So, I'm hoping we will have our foundation set up in the next two weeks and pour within three.

That fits right in with McKenzie Excavating & Paving, as Ken feels he will be ready to start the septic tank and drain field installation right after the foundation has been poured. This should also allow us to utilize their equipment to trench the power to the new garage from the transformer that was just placed by EPUD. Yours in Building Safety, "and" Guarding Our Veterans.

March 2021 Building Inspection Services Report

For the month of March the Building Division of the Public Works & Development Department issued 47 permits, 2 for single family homes, and performed 110 inspections in Cottage Grove. In Creswell 21 permits were issued, 2 for single family homes, and performed 80 inspections. In Veneta, 17 permits were issued, 1 for a single family home, and 32 inspections were performed. In Coburg 5 permits were issued, 2 for new single family homes, and 24 inspections were performed. Staff reviewed and approved 24 plan sets in March and 15 plan sets are in review or on hold for additional information.

Streateries

The City is excited to announce that the first Streatory is now open at Jack Sprats restaurant. In the coming weeks, the Axe and Fiddle and Bartolotti's Pizza will each have a new Streatory placed in front of their restaurants.

Earlier this year, the State of Oregon Tourism Commission granted \$30,000 to the City of Cottage Grove for “direct investment and technical assistance for the development, enhancement and stewardship of key visitor experiences that are COVID-19 appropriate” as well as a project that will “aid in economic recovery and enhance local livability and provide access to a diversity of explorers.”

Citizens, business owners and City staff worked during multiple Council meetings since early 2020 to develop the Streatery program, and the State was looking for shovel-ready projects. Fortunately, the City had three dining decks, or Streateries, approved by Council and ready to be assembled in downtown Cottage Grove this Spring.

Each Streatery will be owned by the City, though each restaurant is permitted by City Council to operate their respective Streatery during respective business hours. During the hours that each restaurant is closed, the Streateries will be considered tiny public parks, or “parklets.” Each Streatery is intended to be placed within only one parking space each. Furniture owned by each restaurant may be removed for their own security reasons, however, the public is encouraged to use the Streateries.

Designers primarily emphasized safety as the primary goal in the structural design of each Streatery. The commercial-quality railing is designed per Oregon Structural Specialty Code to withstand up to 200 pounds of horizontal pressure. And, since each Streatery is a distinct dining area, the ADA prescribes one wheelchair accessible table must be placed immediately adjacent to each dining deck. To address passing vehicular traffic, one concrete barrier will be placed on the end of each Streatery, facing on-coming traffic.

In the fall of 2021, Staff will be asking citizens and business owners for feedback on the Streatery Pilot Study. The City Council will be studying successes as well as how the program can be improved. In the meantime, citizens are encouraged to provide their input at any time. Please call Civil Engineer, Ryan Sisson (541) 767-4153 with questions or comments.

Quote of the Week

“Sunshine is a welcome thing. It brings a lot of brightness.”

Jimmie Davis~