

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Richard Meyers, City Manager

SUBJECT: Friday Update

DATE: July 2, 2021

### **Masks and Distancing – Gone**

On June 30<sup>th</sup> the Governor lifted the requirements for masks and distancing statewide. With the removal of those COVID 19 restrictions the City removed the requirement for masks and distancing in all City facilities. Beginning with the July 1<sup>st</sup> Special Meeting of the City Council all City Council meetings and other official City meetings will be held in person. Pursuant to HB 2560 the meetings will continue to be available for virtual attendance.

### **Community Center Library Re-opening**

With the statewide removal of the mask and distancing requirement we have set a date for the re-opening of the Community Center and Library. The Community Center and Library will re-open on Monday, August 2, 2021.

The Community Center remodeling and repairs are not complete and will still be underway when it re-opens. Staff met and coordinated ways to accommodate re-opening and the ongoing remodeling. Until the new space for Senior and Disability Services is complete they will be working from the Reception Hall. The Senior Center will not be ready for operations yet either. South Valley Athletics and the Cottage Grove Genealogical Society Library will be able to open on their schedules. The Shepherd Room and limited other spaces in the Community Center will be available for community use. Anyone wishing to use the meeting room should contact Teresa or Jessica at (541)942-1185.

The Library will open August 2<sup>nd</sup> with the temporary hours of 1:00 to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. Expanded hours will begin in September. During July the Library will continue the Library in the Park on Tuesdays from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm and the curbside pickup from 3:00 to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday.

Staff looks forward to seeing people in the Community Center and Library again.

### **Yard of the Week**

This week, in honor of the high temperatures we experienced last weekend, the Yard of the Week Prize Patrol selected the yard at 727 North 10<sup>th</sup> Street. The xeriscape yard was not significantly impacted by the heat and required only little water.

### **Free Showers**

Today the City of Cottage Grove and Community Sharing hosted a soft opening of the mobile shower and had one guest use the facility. The soft opening provided an opportunity for volunteers to familiarize themselves with the operation and equipment. The mobile showers will be available every week on Wednesdays from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm at Community Sharing at 1440 Birch Avenue. The showers are a partnership between the City of Cottage Grove and Community Sharing.



### **Eugene Symphony Returns**

The Eugene Symphony will be returning to the Bohemia Park Amphitheater on Monday, July 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm to perform. After not being able to perform during the pandemic the symphony is excited to be able to return. They are especially excited to return to one of their favorite places, Cottage Grove. They are preparing a great concert for the community. Be sure to mark your calendars and plan to attend this amazing event.

### **Bohemia Mining Days**

Bohemia Mining Days is making final preparations for a two day celebration on Saturday and Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> in downtown Cottage Grove. Be ready to share the fun and excitement as the celebration returns from the pandemic. Check out their website and learn about how to participate in the Ore Cart races or enter one of the traditional parades. Events will be held downtown this year to help celebrate the re-opening of our local businesses. Visit <https://bohemiainingdays.org/> for more information.

### **July City Council Meetings**

Because of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday and the return of the Eugene Symphony to Cottage Grove, the regular City Council Meetings on July 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> have been cancelled and the City Council will be meeting at 7:00 pm on Monday, July 19<sup>th</sup> in the City Council Chambers in City Hall.

### **4th of July Holiday**

City offices will be closed on Monday, July 5<sup>th</sup> for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Holiday.

### **New Police Sergeant**

Effective July 1, 2021, Officer Jason Cross has been promoted to Sergeant. Sgt. Cross has been with the Cottage Grove Police Department since July of 2014. He has been a Detective in Investigations since the fall of 2019 and is currently the department's defensive tactics instructor. Congratulations, Jason.

### **Deb Crum Retires**

After nearly 22 and a half years working for the City, Deb Crum retired on Wednesday, June 30, 2021. Deb was the Senior Administrative Assistant to the Public Works & Development Department. She prepared the weekly invoices for payment, made sure all the employees were current with their continuing education classes, prepared



salary changes, assisted in new employee hiring processes, reconciled credit card statements, answered the main Public Works phone line fielding questions and or transferring callers on to the appropriate City staff member. This is just a small list of the many critical daily tasks Deb performed daily for the City. Deb has been the person quietly behind the scenes keeping the Public Works Department up and running. She will definitely be missed.

Deb's retirement party was held on Wednesday at the Middlefield Golf Course. It was a time for City employees to thank Deb for her years of service and wish her a happy retirement in the many years to come. I'm sure there will be many great outdoor adventures ahead for Deb and her husband Keith. As they both love being outdoors fishing, hunting, and spending time with their horses. Thank you Deb for all you have done for Cottage Grove and the Public Works Department and enjoy your much deserved retirement.

### **Fire Danger is High**

On Wednesday, South Lane County Fire & Rescue set the fire danger level at high. High fire danger level restricts mowing of dead and or cured grass to before 10:00 am and after 8:00 pm. It also places restrictions on smoking, open fires, power saw usage, working with metal, operation of motorized vehicles, bans use of all illegal fireworks, and restricts where the use of legal fireworks can be used. Please go to South Lane County Fire & Rescue's website at [southlanefire.org](http://southlanefire.org) to view all the restrictions in place due to the High Fire Danger designation.

### **Hazardous Vegetation Notifications**

On June 15<sup>th</sup>, City Planning Staff began inspecting properties within the City limits for compliance with Cottage Grove Municipal Code 8.12.045 Hazardous Vegetation. Code requires City property owners to cut and or remove wild blackberry bushes, weeds and grass over 12 inches in height, and vegetation near combustibles or likely to endanger buildings or other property. Staff has inspected approximately two thirds of the City to date with plans to have the remaining properties inspected by the end of next week.

Property owners with vegetation in violation of the Code have been sent letters requesting the violation to be corrected within 10 days from the date of the letter. Staff will re-inspect the properties for compliance. If the property is still in violation the City will send a second letter to comply and post the letter on the property. The owner will be subject to fines and a possible lien on the property provided the violation for vegetation removal has not been addressed following the second letter.

### **London Road Safety Corridor**

Lane County is excited for the Safety Corridor designation on London Road to become effective on July 4<sup>th</sup>. The “Safety Corridor” and “Fees Double” signage have been installed. Public education postcards have been mailed to the entire Cottage Grove zip code inviting people to complete an on-line survey to help develop a DUII prevention tool kit.

For more information contact Lane County Senior Transportation Planner Becky Taylor by emailing [becky.taylor@lanecountyor.gov](mailto:becky.taylor@lanecountyor.gov) or by calling (541) 682-6932. Visit the project website at: [www.lanecountyor.gov/LRSC](http://www.lanecountyor.gov/LRSC). Please let Becky Taylor know if you have any questions.

### **Weekly Updates #38 Southmayd Family**

Trusses were delivered on Thursday, and Coast Fork set them with precision. They are finishing up today. I was informed that we needed 27 - 20' 2 x 8 primed SPF for the eaves, 270' of 1 x 2 primed SPF, 35- 40 sheets of ½" ACX plywood for the exposed soffits, 1200 lineal feet of random 2 x 4 for truss bracing and sheetrock backing, and another 544 LF of 2 x 6 for roof over-framing; equal to about another \$16,000 to \$19,000. They needed it right away, so I called Swanson Brothers and discussed it with Sam, their sales manager who really wanted to help, but didn't have it. They seem very interested in helping with future projects and may donate some cash for the Southmayd Home. I called Square Deal and they had the lumber in stock, so I visited with Bryce, sales manager at Sundance Lumber Company. He did not have it, but stipulated they would pay Square Deal for it, so it is being delivered today. I then contacted Natron Wood Products, and spoke with Josh, their sales manager, who assured me they would provide the remaining plywood.



Jeff at Parr Lumber is securing the primed SPF material from the manufacturer; American International Forest Products! So, all taken care of thanks to the great companies noted above! He also was able to sell us 3 rolls of Tyvek at his cost after it was discounted 50% by the manufacturer.



Mark Stringfield, of Gene Stringfield Building Materials got back with me and have donated the 1200 LF of primed SPF for the exterior trim, and 395 feet of Vycor sticky flashing. A big thanks to Mark!

Square Deal has donated a little over \$1,300, and is ordering the siding. James Hardie gave us a \$2,500 credit, so the total cost is yet to be determined.

I introduced Courtney Flathers of Senator Jeff Merkley's office to the Southmayds and gave her a tour of the site. She was very inspired and indicated she would be speaking to Jeff right away, and also mentioned that a colleague of hers had just been appointed to run the State Department of Veterans Affairs, which sounds very promising indeed.

Kendall Bartley, Lead Anchor for KMTR contacted me a couple times this week, and stated the job-site interview of the project should be airing tonight on KMTR. I am unsure of the time, but should be exciting to watch.

As I was discussing the needed materials noted above with Boyd, I kept getting phone calls from a gentleman that had several code questions regarding electrical permits that I could not answer. He had been struggling for a week on how to proceed, so I put him in contact with electrical inspector Ryan Bennett, who quickly solved the problem. I called Ron Swanson back later that day to see that he had been taken care of and during the discussion it was revealed that he is a veteran and was inspired by our project. Ron owns a furniture store and asked if he could help with some new furniture. Misty and Jayson are in desperate need of furniture, so will be meeting and working through the details of some new furnishings. A big thanks to Ron Swanson, both for his service to this great country and becoming a big part of this team.



Lastly, I received a response from Case of Til Valhalla Project. The Founder, Korey Shaffer after coming home from Afghanistan, started losing his brothers in arms to suicide, so as a therapy he designed a hand-crafted memorial plaque to give the mother of a fallen hero. Til Valhalla was officially launched in 2017, and by 2019, they had raised over \$600,000 towards reducing veteran suicide. Today, they continue the fight, and have started an apparel line and sell other nicely designed products. I am in the process of trying to negotiate a small partnership with them of helping with a t-shirt design for the SHB project, as well as other possibilities of helping our veterans with suicide and homelessness.

Valhalla; “The hall of the fallen,” is the great hall in Norse mythology where heroes that had been slain in battle are received and it is a place of honor, glory, and happiness. Please visit their website; [www.tilvalhallaproject.com](http://www.tilvalhallaproject.com) for more information.

As always if someone has an idea, or would like to contact me, please do not hesitate to call or email me. I took the liberty to add more folks to the weekly update, and please do not hesitate to contact me you would prefer not to be on it. Jason Bush, CBO Building Official, (541) 952-1456.

### **Interchange Landscape Improvements**

The contractor for the I-5 Interchange landscape improvements, Milroy Golf Systems, Inc., has been working at the Middlefield Golf Course the past couple of weeks connecting new pipes in order to irrigate both sides of ODOT's Exit 174 I-5 Interchange. The new irrigation system will be completed this coming September and will be owned and maintained by the City. The contract amount for the project is \$458,516 and includes flowers and other vegetation to greatly increase the visual appeal of the City's northern entrance.

For background, the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant currently treats and pumps Class A recycled water to the Middlefield ponds, and then the golf course's irrigation system distributes the recycled water throughout the course. However at many times during the year, the discharge volume far exceeds the available area at Middlefield. And, according to the City's DEQ NPDES wastewater permit, the City must avoid discharging treated wastewater to the Row River during the warmer months of the year. Therefore, completion of this irrigation project, along with the recently completed storage pond, increases the City's ability to meet DEQ requirements that

ultimately improve the environmental conditions in the river. We also look forward to seeing a much greener interchange through the dry months.

### **8th Street and Taylor Avenue Crosswalk**

The concrete sidewalk and street paving for the crosswalk at the south west corner of the intersection at 8th Street and Taylor Avenue is complete. City Utility staff will apply new white thermoplastic striping for the crossings at the intersection in the next couple of weeks.



This will complete the Safe Routes to School upgrades for the intersection. There is a small punch list of items Wildish is working on to complete the Safe Routes to School and Fillmore Avenue Storm Drainage Project.

### *Quote of the Week*

*“Then join hand in hand, brave Americans all! By uniting we stand, by dividing we fall.”*

*~John Dickinson~*