

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Richard Meyers, City Manager

SUBJECT: Friday Update

DATE: January 13, 2017

Something Got a Little Hot in City Hall

On Thursday, January 12, 2017 a circuit breaker for some of the electrical in the Public Works Department was tripped due to staff moving equipment in the office to a different outlet. While visiting the electrical room to reset the breaker, a very strong odor of burning/melting metal was detected. Staff began exploring the wealth of panels and brought in assistance from the City's electrician. The tripped breaker was quickly determined to not be the cause or even related to the odor when the case to the transfer switch was opened and identified as the source of the odor. The electrician and staff quickly identified a major problem with the connection of the main electrical line into the building. Using a heat sensor the connection was shown to be at least 300 degrees.

All equipment in the City Hall was shut down and staff were sent home. The 911 center was moved to the backup center, fiber and IT staff were notified, Territorial Seed was contacted, currently housed inmates were moved outside, the backup generator was disconnected and all electrical service was terminated in 15 minutes. When the service was terminated the bolt holding the connection to the panel was actually glowing red. Repairs were completed by 5:00 pm. No other damages occurred. The event provided an excellent opportunity to try out some emergency procedures and equipment.

City/County Insurance Visit

The City Manager, Police Chief and Captain Gagner met with Dunny Sorenson from City/County Insurance and Dave Nelson the Public Safety Risk Management Officer from City/County Insurance joined the discussion by phone to discuss the restrictions established by legislation or court cases on towing or impounding vehicles. The City will be working with CIS and others to try to develop some tools to help improve public safety. Following the discussion the City Manager and Dunny met separately and reviewed the City's risk management practices.

Chamber of Commerce Banquet

The Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce will be holding their annual Awards and Installation Banquet in the Cottage Grove Armory on Saturday, January 21st. The social activities begin at 5:00 pm with the banquet and program starting at 6:00 pm. Anyone still interested in attending should contact the Chamber of Commerce.

Howard Retirement Countdown

On January 27th at 6:00 pm in the Cottage Grove Armory, the City will be holding a special countdown ceremony for Howard Schesser is retiring from the City of Cottage Grove on January 31st. The cost for dinner is \$23. Anyone wishing to attend, should contact the City Recorder, Trudy before Friday, January 20th.

Relay For Life

The South Lane County Relay for Life will be holding their annual kick-off event at the Cottage Grove on Saturday, January 28th beginning at 5:00 pm. Anyone wishing to attend the family friendly event should register for Relay for Life at www.relayforlife.org/cottagegroveor or contact southlanerfl@gmail.com.

Legislative Preview

The Blackberry Pie Society will be hosting a discussion with former legislator Tony Corcoran about the upcoming legislative session in the Cottage Grove Armory on Tuesday, January 17th from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.

Police Interviews

Written testing and interviews were conducted on Monday, January 9th for potential police officers. The next step in the process is the Chief's interviews with the top four candidates going forward. These interviews will be completed by Friday, January 20, 2017.

Security Updates

The police department is upgrading security by adding an additional interior magnetic lock to limit access to the interior of the police department, just past the Administrative Manager's Office. The door handle and latch on the first door into the police department office area from the lobby will also be changed to be more secure with new hardware.

Ice Capades

Over the past several days, Public Works has been dealing with the persistent ice storm, which coated everything in town with a layer of ice. Ice storms are a whole different kind of animal from a snow storm. Snow can be plowed and pushed out of the way. Ice coats everything and traditional plowing is ineffective. The snow blade just skitters over the top of the ice and, if you can lift the ice with the blade, sections of asphalt usually come along with it. Deicer only works within a very narrow temperature range and, because it was so cold, deicer would have been ineffective. The best way to deal with ice-covered roads is to apply sand to improve traction. The sand also gets pushed down into the ice making it necessary to reapply the sand every so often. The Public Works Crew was out each day during the ice storm, including Saturday and Sunday, applying sand throughout the business district, on collector streets, and on hilly and shaded areas throughout the City. The Crew also responded to specific streets if problems were reported, frozen water services, and downed branch pick-up. Public Works spread a total of 38 tons of sand on City streets during this storm. That same amount of sand will now need to be picked-up by the street sweeper. This storm was nowhere near as bad as the ice storm a couple of years ago and Cottage Grove fared much better than our neighbors to the north and south of us.

STEAM at the Library

The Cottage Grove Public Library will host our monthly STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) workshop for youth ages K-12. STEAM is the 3rd Wednesday of each month and the next workshop is Wednesday, January 18th from 2:30 to 4:00 pm. Youth are encouraged to bring a friend and meet other kids and enjoy amazing refreshments.

Quote of the Week

“The past should be the past. It can destroy the future. Live life for what tomorrow has to offer, not for what yesterday has taken away.”

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