

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Richard Meyers, City Manager

SUBJECT: Friday Update

DATE: January 27, 2017

Goodbye to Howard

Tonight we will be officially thanking Howard for his years of service to the community. He will be officially finishing up and entering the world of retirement on Tuesday but I believe he is taking the final day off. Over the course of his two tours of duty with Cottage Grove, from 1985 to 1989 and from 2000 to 2017 he has contributed a lot to making the community a better place live, work and play. During his career he has seen the development of Gateway Blvd, Cottage Grove Industrial Park, Village Green, Middlefield Golf Course, has addressed floodplain regulations from the state, dealt with expansion of Wal-Mart, annexation of the Speedway, created park master plans and helped us make major preparations for emergencies. Thank you Howard, you will be missed.

Youth Advisory Council

The Cottage Grove Youth Advisory Council will be meeting on Monday, January 30th in a special 5th Monday meeting to discuss plans for the Sock collection and Sockball fight that will be happening from 6:00 to 8:00 pm on Monday, February 20th.

The YAC is also preparing for the YAC Academy that will be held earlier in the day on Monday, February 20th. All day the YAC members will be with City Staff and experience the day to day operations of the City. The City Council will be invited to join the YAC for lunch.

Oregon Main Street Network Meeting & Grant Workshop

The Winter Oregon Main Street Network Meeting & Training is being held this coming Monday, January 30, 1 to 5 p.m. and Tuesday, January 31, 8 a.m. to Noon, at the Cottage Grove Armory. The training will cover the new Oregon Main Street Revitalization Grant program. Attendance at the Network Meeting and Training is required for Performing Main Street and Transforming Downtown level communities. We are encouraging the Main Street Board of Directors and the Historic Landmarks Commission to attend, but community members are welcome to attend.

Please register for the OMS Network Meeting and the Workshop using this link:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/oregon-main-street-network-meeting-grant-workshop-tickets-30764572665>

Lucy's Dog Park Open for Use

Steve Nisewander, owner of Lucy's Car Wash on Main Street, has officially opened a public-use dog park behind the car wash. Lucy's Dog Park is open for dogs and their humans from dawn to dusk. You can access the dog park from either Main Street or from the Row River Trailhead Park. Parking is located at the end of S. 14th Street on the Trailhead Park grounds. The dog park is fully fenced and will soon have other features such as drinking fountains for the pups and benches for their humans. Thanks to PetSafe for their generous grant that allowed for the fencing of this park, and to Steve for his generosity to the community.

New Golf Course Superintendent

The City of Cottage Grove has hired Roger Vandehey as the new Golf Course Superintendent to oversee the operation and maintenance of the City's Middlefield Golf Course. Roger replaces Kris Ammerman who resigned in late November to accept the Parks Superintendent position with the City of Roseburg. Roger literally grew up on a golf course and has worked as a golf course superintendent for 25 years. His prior superintendent experience includes positions at Sandpines Golf Links in Florence; Springfield Country Club; Elkhorn Valley Golf Course in Lyons; and Wildwood Golf Course in Portland. Roger holds an Oregon Commercial Pesticide Applicators License and is a graduate of the Linn-Benton Community College Turf Grass Management program. Roger brings a wealth of experience to Middlefield and we look forward to benefitting from his expertise. Roger will begin his duties in early February. Welcome Roger.

Knox Hill Reservoirs Mixing System Upgrade

During the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year, Public Works installed a mixing system at the Knox Hill water storage reservoirs. The two reservoirs hold 2.0 and 2.3 million gallons of water. This large volume of water does not mix well and during times of low use, water can become "layered" within the reservoir. Mixing also enhances chlorine contact time and guarantees proper disinfection. The original mixers set on the bottom of each reservoir. One has failed and needs to be replaced. Through a replacement and upgrade program, the City will be able to get more reliable and robust mixers at a significantly reduced price. The mixers constantly move and mix the water being stored in the reservoirs. The upgraded mixers will be installed by divers whose suits have been disinfected to allow entry into the reservoir. This task will be completed at the same time that the reservoirs are being cleaned this spring.

Successful Author Event at the Library

The Cottage Grove Public Library recently hosted an interesting evening event with local author Janet Fisher, author of *A Place of Her Own* and *The Shifting Winds*. Janet Fisher lives on a Century Farm near Elkton, Oregon, bought by her great-great-grandmother. Life on this farm is the subject of her first book, *A Place of Her Own*. Janet's new historical novel, *The Shifting Winds*, was released this year. A group of folks interested in local history had an interesting evening of conversation with Janet Fisher. Thank you Janet for sharing your interesting books and history with our community.

Classic Film at the Library

Please join us on Monday, January 30th at 1:30 pm for a screening of the Debbie Reynolds movie *The Unsinkable Molly Brown*. Debbie Reynolds earned a 1964 Best Actress Academy Award for her portrayal of the plucky backwoods heroine who survives the Titanic. Come see this great movie and help honor the life of Debbie Reynolds and enjoy some popcorn and drinks.

Library Kids Book Club

This Saturday, January 28th from 2:30 to 3:30 pm, the Cottage Grove Library will host the next meeting of "Behind the Pages" Book Club for middle schoolers. The Club will be discussing "The Mysterious Benedict Society" by Trenton Lee Stewart. Middle school aged youth are encouraged to attend and meet new friends.

Police Department Reserves

The Police Department is currently reviewing Reserve Officer candidates. All screened and vetted applicants will then be eligible to attend the Lane Community College Reserve Officer Academy beginning in March. The Reserve Officer classification is a non-paid position affording the Reserve Officer with exposure to hands on police officer training.

Urban Forestry Advisory Committee

The City of Cottage Grove Urban Forestry Committee currently has four vacancies. Committee positions are appointed by the City Council. The Urban Forestry Committee meets once a month. People interested in applying for these positions need to complete the Volunteer Appointment Application available online or at the Library/Community Center or City Hall. The deadline for submitting applications is 5:00 pm, February 13, 2017. For further information please contact Teresa Cowan, Cottage Grove Community Coordinator, 400 E. Main Street, Cottage Grove, or by email: volunteers@cottagegrove.org, or by calling (541) 942-1185.

The Vision Keeper Committee Openings

Vision Keepers currently have openings for two "At Large" positions. Applicants will be interviewed and confirmed by the Cottage Grove City Council. The role of the Vision Keepers is to monitor progress of the Cottage Grove 2037 Vision Action Plan. The Vision Keepers meet quarterly. Volunteer Appointment Applications are available online or at City Hall and the Library/Community Center. Applications should be returned by Monday, February 13th at 5:00 pm to Teresa Cowan, Cottage Grove Community Coordinator, 400 E. Main Street, Cottage Grove. Any questions, contact Teresa at (541) 942-1185 or by emailing volunteers@cottagegrove.org.

AARP Free Tax Aid

Starting Wednesday, February 1st, AARP free tax help will be offered at the Cottage Grove Community Center. This service is offered on a first come first served basis. Sign-ups start at 8:00 am and tax aid is from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm. This year you must bring a Social Security card for everyone on your return plus a photo I.D. Tax aid will be offered every Wednesday through April 12, 2017.

Application Workshop offered by Lane County at Community Center

Lane County Recruitment & Selection Coordinator Laura Vinson will be hosting an Application Workshop in the Shepherd Room at the Cottage Grove Community Center on March 7th, from 9:30 to 11:00 am. If you are interested in hearing more about Lane County's Recruitment & Selection processes, finding current job openings, or how to complete a more successful application packet, please plan to attend. No fee or registration is required. All are welcome and invited to attend.

Quote of the Week

"Don't walk in front of me... I may not follow. Don't walk behind me... I may not lead. Walk beside me... just be my friend."

~Albert Camus~