

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Richard Meyers, City Manager

SUBJECT: Friday Update

DATE: February 16, 2018

### **Emergency Alerts**

When an emergency strikes and you need to be warned about dangerous conditions or situations, it is always nice to be able to receive the information needed. Lane County uses a system called AlertSense to disseminate emergency information through a mass notification process. The system will call landlines (home phones) and registered cell phones. Cell phones need to be registered to the proper address through the system to receive the appropriate emergency information. Apparently, there are only 14,000 residents in Lane County with cell phones because that is how many cell phones are registered with AlertSense in Lane County. Only 14,000 people would receive possibly lifesaving information in the event of an emergency. Are you one of them?

Registering your cell phone with AlertSense only takes a few minutes and being registered could save your life. Even if you are one of the small percentage (14,000) that have already registered, you may want to review your information and make sure the registered address and information is accurate. The City of Cottage Grove has used the notification system several times and it is very effective at getting the word out about an emergency or safety situation. But it is only effective if it can reach you.

Sign up today at <http://bit.ly/LaneAlertSense> or use the QR code on the Lane County Sheriff's Office News Release attached to the Friday Update. Don't put off making sure your cell phone is registered so you can receive the emergency information that could save you or your family's life.

### **Youth Advisory Council**

The Cottage Grove Youth Advisory Council will be meeting on Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:15 to 7:30 pm.

### **City Council Vacancy**

The Cottage Grove City Council is seeking applicants for the Ward 4 City Council seat that will be vacant after the effective date of Councilor Amy Slay's resignation on February 28<sup>th</sup>. To qualify, applicants must be a qualified elector, must have resided in the City of at least a year and must be a resident of Ward 4. Applications are being accepted until Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:00

pm. The City Council will conduct interviews of the applicants on March 12<sup>th</sup> prior to the City Council meeting. The application form and ward boundary map are available on the City's webpage at [www.cottagegrove.org/citycouncil](http://www.cottagegrove.org/citycouncil).

### **City Council Potluck**

The Mayor and City Council are hosting a community potluck on Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the Reception Hall at the Community Center. Everyone is invited to attend and bring food to share and visit with each other.

### **Drinking Water Services Fees**

The Oregon Health Authority - Drinking Water Services Program has the responsibility to administer the Environmental Protection Agency's regulations concerning drinking water for the State of Oregon. Since 2009, the Drinking Water Program has seen a decrease in staff due to budget reductions. The Program has had to prioritize its work to focus on the highest potential threats to public health. The current funding gap for the Program is estimated at \$1 Million dollars. The Program estimates a need of 5-6 full time employees to restore base program capacity. Routine Water System Surveys of drinking water systems generate about 5% of the revenue for the Program's budget. The surveys used to be conducted by the State at no cost to the City, but due to decreasing revenues that supported the Program's budget, a Survey fee was required to be established. As revenues continued to decrease with the loss of Medical Marijuana dollars supporting the Program's budget and increasing personnel costs, an adjustment was made to the Survey fee structure that took effect January 1, 2016. The Survey fee for the City of Cottage Grove has increased from \$2,400 to \$7,200.

### **New Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Employees**

Last week the Water Treatment Division and Wastewater Treatment Division held interviews for new Operator-In-Training positions for both facilities. There were over 35 applicants for each position. Fifteen individuals were interviewed for the two positions and job offers were given and accepted by two applicants.

Stephanie Cellucci will be joining the Wastewater Treatment team on February 28<sup>th</sup>. She has been working at Winston-Green Wastewater Treatment Facility as a Wastewater Treatment Operator Intern through the Umpqua Community College Wastewater Program since February 2017.

Ryan Kimball will be starting work at the Water Treatment Plant on February 19<sup>th</sup>. Ryan has spent the last 18 years working in Alaska for CH2M Hill in their Tank & Vessel Department. He received a Water and Wastewater Treatment Certificate while working for the Job Corps in Palmer, Alaska.

We are excited to have Stephanie and Ryan joining our Public Works & Development team and know they will be great additions to the Wastewater and Water Treatment Plants.

### **1331 South 6th Street Update**

On Thursday of this week, crew members from both the Utilities Division and Maintenance Division hauled away seven dump truck loads of garbage to Lane County's Landfill. Four additional truckloads of wood and steel were removed and recycled. Matthew Denis, a reporter for the Eugene Weekly, was on site during the cleanup to take pictures for an article he is writing on Zombie Homes. Look for the article to go to print in the next couple of weeks.



### **1132 South Adams Street**

On Monday, South Lane County Fire & Rescue responded to a fire at 1132 South Adams Street. This home has been vacant for several years and someone started an outbuilding on fire. The structure had extensive damage from the fire causing Fire Chief Wooten to issue a letter stating the burnt structure is an attractive nuisance and prohibited health and safety hazard under Cottage Grove's Municipal Code 8.12.020-8.12.030. Cottage Grove's Nuisance Abatement Officer prepared an Administrative Warrant for Cottage Grove's Municipal Judge to consider giving City staff permission to immediately enter the property to demolish and remove the burnt shed. The warrant was approved and late Thursday afternoon the Utility crew demolished the shed. A huge "Thank You" to everyone involved to abate the hazardous structure.



### **Cottage Grove Museum Annex**

Maintenance staff has been working on upgrades to the Cottage Grove Museum Annex in anticipation of the return of the Titanic Coat Display. Staff completed repairs to an exterior deck and installed a new walking path from the deck to the sidewalk. The path made from cement pavers is a welcome addition to the exterior of the Annex. Staff is also working on a lighting upgrade and installing a new security system.

### **Construction Update**

The Gateway Boulevard road repair project at the Vintage Inn is getting very close to being complete. On Thursday 70 yards of concrete was poured replacing the old worn pavement. The remaining pavement work will require warmer temperatures before it can be installed completing the project.

The Utility Crew will be repairing a sewer line in South Hwy 99 near Adams Street on Wednesday of next week. Please watch out for our crew, as Hwy 99 is a very busy road. For detailed information on these projects and updates on other projects, please go to Construction Corner at [cottagegrove.org](http://cottagegrove.org).

### **Community Conversation**

The Cottage Grove 2037 Vision Keepers Committee invite everyone to the first ever "Community Conversation." This free community event is happening on Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Cottage Grove High School Cafeteria. The goal of this event is to bring the community together for some good food and conversation. This is a free event and childcare will be provided.

### **Classic Film at the Library**

Please join us at the Cottage Grove Public Library on Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup> for the screening of the classic film "Indiscreet" starring Cary Grant and Ingrid Bergman. This 1958 comedy was nominated for several Golden Globe awards, including Best Actor and Best Actress.

### *Quote of the Week*

*“Never underestimate the power of dreams and the influence of the human spirit. We are all the same in this notion: The potential for greatness lives within each of us.”*

*~Wilma Rudolph~*