

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Richard Meyers, City Manager

SUBJECT: Friday Update

DATE: March 10, 2017

Ahh the Signs of Spring - Daffodils and Potholes

With the snow this week it is hard to imagine that Spring in Cottage Grove is just around the corner. With the coming of Spring the City Utilities Crew's hearts will be turning to potholes. This year's winter weather was not kind to the City's aging streets. So far this year we have already placed over 8 tons of material in potholes and we know we have many more to fill.

That's where everyone can help. We locate many of the potholes by driving around but it will take the crew a while to drive all 45 miles of City streets. To help speed up the process citizens are invited to call in their favorite (or not so favorite) potholes or use the City's webpage to report potholes. By using the **Pothole Spotter** on the webpage anyone can submit the location of potholes which will then be entered into the work list for the crew. The **Pothole Spotter** is mobile friendly so it works with your desktop or your phone. If you want to continue to call in and talk to a live person please call Public Works at (541)942-3349.

Filling potholes is a never ending job. The City crew uses a product called "E-Z Street" instead of traditional cold patch. E-Z Street is a hardening-type cold patch that sets-up and can be installed when it is wet or cold. Traditional cold patch does not hold-up well in wet weather or freeze/thaw situations. Traditional cold patch can be "blown-out" in as little as one week. E-Z Street lasts much longer and provides a semi-permanent surface. The down-side of E-Z Street is cost, storage life, and local availability. The product is only available in Portland and we have to send a dump truck to pick it up. Because E-Z Street sets-up, it can only be stored for a very limited period and must be applied soon after it is delivered.

Community Center Roof Repairs

Not only has the winter weather taken a toll on our roads but the storms have taken a toll on the Community Center. Recent weather has resulted in some significant leaks in the building's roof. Initially the leaks were believed to be the result of a widespread roofing material failure. Staff called for assistance from a roofing contractor and a damaged section of the roofing was discovered that appeared to be the result of vandalism. There was also some graffiti discovered near the damage. Apparently a large, sharp object was used to puncture the roofing system creating a significant point for leaking. Temporary repairs to the damaged section were made. However, with subsequent storms and snow the leaking continued at a lower volume. The staff has spent countless hours trying to trace the leaks or searching for other intentional damage on the 32,400 square foot roof.

As a result of the intentional damage being discovered we have contacted our insurance company and additional contractors to address the damage in the building. Insulation, ceiling tiles and walls have been damaged and will need to be replaced. Repair and replacement cannot begin until all the leaks are discovered and repaired. City crew and roofing specialists continue to search for other points of damage or failure that could be creating the remaining leaks. Once possible points of leaks are discovered temporary patches will be done until we can make more substantial repairs when the weather is a little dryer. Removal of water damaged materials inside the building will begin while the exploration to locate the leaks continues.

The moisture in the building has created other problems. Mold was discovered in isolated areas. Staff did a swab test of the mold found. Contractors have also been monitoring the moisture levels and the building is drying faster than expected. Air monitoring tests have also been conducted and results are expected next week.

We do not know the full extent of the repairs that are needed. The roof is over 20 years old and is nearing the end of its expected life. Replacement of the entire roof is estimated to be about \$350,000.

Rural Elected Official Needed

The Lane County Board of Commissioners is seeking applications from interested rural elected officials to serve on the Human Services Poverty and Homelessness Board. The Board meets monthly and the elected officials serve one year terms.

The Poverty and Homelessness Board (PHB) provides advice to the Board of County Commissioners and the intergovernmental Human Services Commission with the goal of reducing and preventing poverty and homelessness in Lane County. It assists the development of the delivery of housing and services to meet the specific needs of people who are impoverished or homeless improving their stability. It also assists to maximize the allocation of local, state and federal funds made available for this purpose. The board also serves as the administrative board for the Lane County Community Action Agency and as the oversight board for the Lane County Continuum of Care.

If any member of the City Council is interested in applying for the Board or wants more information, please contact the City Manager.

Lions Club

The City Manager spoke at Lions Club on Thursday this week. He provided the club a report on City activities and shared information about the swinging bridge, library/community center roof, Armory restoration and this summer's upcoming events.

Beeper

The City Manager will be on KNND's Beeper Show on Monday, March 13th from 9:00 to 10:00 am.

Swinging Bridge Update

This last week, City crews have been at the Swinging Bridge to replace boards and signs closing the bridge that were vandalized or removed. The boards and signs are important to close off the bridge as using the bridge is dangerous and could cause injury.

Currently OBEC Consulting Engineers are preparing information for the City Council on the costs for three options with the bridge. The options are:

- Repair and strengthen the existing bridge. This would involve replacing the support towers with new towers and upsizing the support cable to meet new load requirements with as much re-use of the current bridge materials as possible.
- Construction of a new suspension bridge with steel towers, steel floor framing and plastic decking to simulate wood decking placed on the existing substructure if possible. The goal is a new bridge with all new material and construction but have the appearance of the existing bridge.
- Replacement of the bridge with a prefabricated steel truss bridge with a concrete deck placed on the existing foundations.

These three options will give the community the information needed to make a choice of the direction to take to get the bridge back in service. Once an option is chosen the fundraising and work can begin.

Regulating Outlet Repair Completed

The US Army Corps of Engineers has notified the City that the scheduled repair to one of the regulating outlets at Dorena Dam has been completed. Dorena Dam has five regulating outlets that release stored water from behind the dam to control flooding and flow in the Row River. The Corps was able to complete the repair to the malfunctioning regulating outlet without completing a full drawdown of the reservoir level. Dorena Dam has five regulating outlets; four regular and one emergency. It was the emergency regulating outlet that needed to be repaired.

A full drawdown of the reservoir could have stirred up sediment and caused significant increases in turbidity in the river. The City draws domestic water from the Row River, treats it, and distributes the treated water to consumers. The increased turbidity would have impacted the drinking water treatment process. The Corps understood the impact that the emergency repair could have had on the City and our drinking water and kept the staff informed about the project. City staff appreciates the efforts of the Corps to work with the City and keep us informed about the project.

Historic Renovation Grant Awarded

The Cottage Grove Historic Landmarks Commission is pleased to announce the award of a Historic Renovation Grant. This program is designed to assist Downtown business & property owners with needed historic renovations. This year, grant funds were awarded to Danny Solesbee, 535 E. Main Street, for the restoration of the roof on the First National Bank Building.

A total of \$5,000 in City funds will be distributed to this project, which must meet a 1:1 match requirement to receive Renovation Grant funds.

This is the sixth year of this grant program. Prior recipients have included the Cottage Grove Hotel (new awning), Burkholder Woods (corbel repair), Mortier Building (Coca Cola mural, masonry repair), 802 E. Main Street (new stucco, roof repair), the Bookmine (awning and siding repair), the First National Bank (masonry cleaning, windows repair), Crafty Mercantile (rear door replacement), and the IOOF (neon sign repair).

For more information on the Historic Renovation Grant Program, please contact the Community Development Department at (541)942-3340. Applications and grant program guidelines are available at www.cottagegrove.org or from the Community Development Department, City Hall, 400 E. Main Street.

Water Meter Replacements

Over the past couple of weeks, the City Utilities Crew has been busy replacing thirty-three old style residential water meters. These meters were gear driven models, dating from the 1960's, that will not accept the type of registers that can be used with a radio read system. These meters were manual read only. Almost all of these meters had been rebuilt several times and they did not meet the current lead free standard now mandated by the State of Oregon. Each fiscal year, the City budgets to replace as many of these old style meters as possible. The City's long-range goal is to install a radio read meter system throughout the City.

2016 Consumer Confidence Report Ready for Distribution

The 2016 Water Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) has been finalized and will be made available to all customers over the next few weeks. Water Production is charged with the annual task of reporting on the quantity and quality of the City's source, treatment, and distribution of drinking water to our customers. As the result of a rule change, the availability of the CCR will be announced in the City water bill that will be mailed at the end of March. Customers will be given a web address that will link to the City's website, where the CCR can be viewed or printed. The 2016 CCR has also been posted on the City's web site. Post cards will be prepared for mail distribution, announcing the availability of the 2016 CCR, to those consumers of the City's water that do not directly pay the bill for water consumption. Additional copies of the CCR will be printed and made available for pick-up at the Public Works Department in City Hall or, customers can call (541)942-3349 to request a copy via mail.

New Kids Computer at the Library

The Library is very excited to announce that we now have a new Kids Computer Station. The Friends of the Cottage Grove Public Library played a major role in helping to make this possible. They applied for and received a Cottage Grove Community Foundation grant of \$1,000 dollars, then contributed the remaining funds needed to purchase the AWE Kids Computer Station. Stop by the Kids Area at the Library soon to check out our new Kids Computer.

Native American Cultural Event A Success

A diverse group of Tribal Members and general public had a spectacular afternoon last Saturday at the Library for our Annual Native American Gathering. Storytelling, drumming, good food and good conversation highlighted the afternoon. The day ended with lots of Kids of all ages enjoying drumming on the "big drum" under the direction of Tribal Members. Special thanks to

Linda Gould for helping to coordinate and plan this wonderful event that honored the life of Roy Hayes, Jr., Nez Perce Elder, who passed away last Fall.

Youth Art Show at the Library

There is still time for 6th to 12th grade aged youth to enter art in the Youth Art Show at the Library. The deadline to enter is March 28, 2017. A Gala Reception will be held April 7th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm to open the exhibit. For more information stop by the Library and chat with a Librarian.

Quote of the Week

“Respect for ourselves guides our morals, respect for others guides our manners.”

~Laurence Sterne~