

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Richard Meyers, City Manager
SUBJECT: Friday Update
DATE: June 30, 2017

Symphony Bars

When that chocolate craving hits, think about supporting the efforts to bring the Eugene Symphony to Cottage Grove and buy a delicious extra-large Symphony Bar. Symphony Bars are available in more places around the community. The Bookmine and the Sentinel have joined in selling the bars. The Symphony Bars will also be available at the Concerts in the Park on Wednesday evenings. In fact at Wednesday's concert the Cottage Grove Youth Advisory Council sold 45 Symphony Bars. The proceeds from the sale of the Symphony Bars will help cover the costs to bring the Eugene Symphony to Cottage Grove.

Fire Season Restrictions

John Wooten, Fire Chief of South Lane County Fire & Rescue has issued a notice that Fire Season Restrictions began on June 29th. The restrictions apply within the City of Cottage Grove. The attached Press Release describes the restrictions.

Yard of the Week

This week the Yard of the Week Prize Patrol awarded the coveted Yard of the Week prize to the residents at 1145 Birch. This beautiful yard was a nomination received from an observant neighbor in the community. Don't miss out on your opportunity to thank those members in the community who do their part to make the community beautiful, be sure to submit nominations for those yards that deserve recognition.

Youth Advisory Council

The Youth Advisory Council **will not** be meeting on Monday, July 3rd because of the 4th of July holiday.

City Hall Closed

City offices will be closed on Tuesday for the 4th of July holiday. Have a safe and happy 4th.

Safe Driving Class

The Community Center will be hosting an AARP Safe Driving Class Friday, July 21st in the Shepherd Room from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. To learn more about this opportunity please contact instructor Bryan Ducker at (541) 942-7260.

New Employees

We want to send a big Cottage Grove welcome to several new employees. Erik Hesseling will be joining the Planning staff in late August as our new Planning Tech; Carlene Girouard will start July 3rd as the new Main Street Coordinator; Taylor Sayles arrived this week to work her third year as an Intern for the Planning Division; and Mason Shepherd will start July 5th part time for the Maintenance Division. It is great to have all our current job openings filled and fully staffed for the summer.

Winston Water District Tour

On Monday, several staff members from the Finance and Public Works & Development Departments toured the Winston Water District Automated Meter Reader System. The district has been changing its meter system from manual read meters to automated meters. It has reduced the time of reading meters from three employees reading meters for five days, to one employee reading all the meters in one day. Currently we have two employees reading meters for five days per month. If Cottage Grove moved to the automated system, our meters could be read in three hours. This could be of great value to the Utilities Division, as it would free up staff to work on other projects in the City. This would also help reduce staff time and improve billing consistency for the Finance Department in processing the utility bills.

Crosswalk Striping

This week the City contractor continued striping the crosswalks on Main Street. The Public Works & Development Director chose to have the cross walks on Main Street freshened rather than completely re-striped. This allowed additional crosswalks to be striped on East Main at 14th, 16th and Gateway Streets where the crosswalks were barely visible and have high pedestrian use.

High Grass Mowing

Planning Staff has begun enforcement of the Hazardous Vegetation provisions of the City Code. Under provisions of this code, tall grass and weeds; wild blackberry bushes; vegetation that is near combustible or is likely to endanger buildings or other property if fired within the City limits, must be cut or removed to prevent creation of a fire hazard.

Historic Renovation Grants Available

The Cottage Grove Historic Landmarks Commission is pleased to announce the opening of applications for the annual Historic Renovation Grant Program. This program is designed to assist Downtown business and property owners with needed historic renovations to make improvements or perform maintenance on the exterior of their building. We have \$5,000 to distribute this winter in matching grants of up to \$2,500.

This is the seventh year of this grant program. Prior recipients have included the IOOF (sign repair), Crafty Mercantile (rear door), 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), and the First National Bank (masonry cleaning, windows repair).

Projects must meet the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation to qualify. Also, project work plans must be approved by the Historic Landmarks Commission and the State

Historic Preservation Office before work may begin. The Historic Landmarks Commission will review the applications and select the projects for award.

Applications must be submitted by August 1, 2017. Work must be completed (and receipts turned in) by June 30, 2018.

If you are interested in applying, please contact the Public Works & Development Department at (541) 942-3340 for more information. Applications and grant program guidelines are available at www.cottagegrove.org or from the Public Works & Development Department, City Hall, 400 E. Main Street.

Exhibits at the Library

The Cottage Grove Public Library currently has three interesting exhibits on display. The Smithsonian Exhibit, which features the new African American Museum, is on display through June; a Cottage Grove Museum exhibit featuring early medicine and doctors of Cottage Grove; and a fantastic display of antique and classic bicycles, both of which will be on display into July. Stop by soon to view these exhibits.

Fish Tales Event at Library

On Monday, July 10th at 6:00 pm, the Cottage Grove Public Library will be hosting an Oregon Humanities Conversation Project with Jennifer Burns Bright, called Fish Tales: Traditions and Challenges of Seafood in Oregon.

Bright is a food and travel writer based in Port Orford, Oregon. She holds a PhD from the University of California at Irvine and a Master Food Preserver certification. She recently retired from teaching at the University of Oregon.

Through the Conversation Project, Oregon Humanities offers free programs that engage community members in thoughtful, challenging conversations about ideas critical to our daily lives and our state's future. More information about Oregon Humanities' programs and publications, which include the Conversation Project, can be found at oregonhumanities.org.

Quote of the Week

“We are the land of the free, we are the home of the brave. Let's pay tribute to our brave American Heroes on this special day and forever. Happy Independence Day!”