

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council  
FROM: Richard Meyers, City Manager  
SUBJECT: Friday Update  
DATE: August 18, 2017

**Ice Cream Social**

Join us for an Ice Cream Social at the Cottage Grove Armory on Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. Ice cream and carnival games will only cost a nickel. There will be music, demonstrations and just great fun.



**Yard of the Week**

This week the Yard of the Week is located at 1600 Fairview Place. A neighbor nominated the yard and commented about all the work that the family puts into the yard, and it shows. There are six more weeks left in the 2017 Yard of the Week season, so be sure to get those yards nominated that deserve recognition.

**City Employee Service Awards**

The City Manager recognized the following staff at the City employee picnic yesterday for their years of service to the community:

- |                     |                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Don Brown 5 years   | Debbie Barnett 15 years  |
| Jill Drury 5 years  | Amanda Ferguson 15 years |
| Steve Zeek 10 years |                          |

Congratulations to these service award winners, thank you for your service.

**Cottage Grove Airport Grand Opening**

Over 50 people were present at the grand opening of the Cottage Grove Airport Welcome Center at Jim Wright Field. Thank you to everyone that came and showed support for the project. The new welcome center will be vital to bringing people to Cottage Grove. Pilots are already visiting or making plans to visit the airport. Representatives from the Oregon Aviation Department were in attendance and were very impressed with the community support. Additional plans are in the works to further develop the aviation related industry at the airport.

The Oregon Aviation Historical Society located at Jim Wright Field in Cottage Grove will be hosting a fly-in breakfast on Saturday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> from 7:00 to 10:00 am. All proceeds will benefit the Oregon Aviation Historical Society and the preservation of Oregon's Aviation History.

### **National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges**

Members of the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges will be in Cottage Grove August 26-28 for their annual conference. They will be touring local bridges and the community. We are excited to have them as guests in the community.

### **Ride With the Mayor**

To celebrate Cycle Oregon returning to the community, the start of school and the success of the Row River Trail, Mayor Jeff Gowing will be hosting a special bike ride on Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10:00 am at the Row River Trailhead at 10<sup>th</sup> and Main. Riders will ride to the Mosby Creek Trailhead (about 3 miles). At the Mosby Creek Trailhead the Mayor will have treats to share. Riders can then continue on the trail or return back to town. Cyclists of all ages and abilities are invited to join this leisure ride.

### **Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council August Science Pub**

On Tuesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> from 5:00 to 7:00 pm the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council will welcome Vanessa Petro, Oregon State University Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society Faculty Research Assistant, for the August 2017 Science Pub presentation entitled "Beavers: Understanding Nature's Architects" at the Axe & Fiddle Public House, 657 E. Main Street. Ms. Petro will discuss research findings on topics such as beaver landscape genetics, relocation responses and home range estimates for studies recently conducted throughout Oregon. Her presentation will elucidate the realities of working with beaver in stream restoration and the knowledge gaps that still remain regarding beaver populations in Oregon.

### **Library Summer Reading Programs**

The Cottage Grove Public Library hosted the "Explosions Inc" STEAM program this week and over 120 enthusiastic kids and adults attended and were amazed by the "chemistry in action" that was presented. This was a great interactive STEAM event, enjoyed by many and was our final Summer Reading Program for the season. Thanks to all of the amazing readers who have participated in the Summer Reading Program this year.

The Youth Book Club, Behind the Pages, will meet at the library on Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 to 3:30 pm. The Book Club will be discussing Popular: A Memoir by Maya Van Wagenen. All youth grades 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> are welcome to attend.

### **Teen McKenzie Trip A Success**

The Cottage Grove Public Library "Teen Adventure" trip to raft the McKenzie River was a huge success last week. Special thanks to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and to the McKenzie Ranger District for awesome presentations on Ecology and Fisheries Biology of the McKenzie Watershed. Thanks to Helfrich Rafting for an awesome trip.

### **Thank you Alexei**

After 14 years of service to Cottage Grove in the Utility Division, Alexei Seleshanko will be starting a new job working for the Public Works Department in Coos Bay. The last few years Alexei has been operating the City's Street Sweeper. Thank you Alexei for your



service to Cottage Grove and keeping our streets clean. We wish you the best in your new position.

### **Congratulations Erich**

On Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, Interim Wastewater Supervisor Erich Schroeder passed his certification test for the Wastewater Treatment Facilities Operator Level 4. Congratulations on achieving the Level 4 Operators status.

### **Public Improvements Start at New Harrison Elementary School**

Public Works Staff attended a pre-construction meeting for the public improvements on South 8th Street and Taylor Avenue that were required for the new Harrison Elementary School on Monday. Work began Wednesday on South 8th Street with the removal of asphalt and sidewalk for the installation of new sidewalk and driveway entrance to the Pool.

Excavation work along Taylor Avenue is progressing for the street widening, sidewalks and driveways into the new school. Work will continue for the next few weeks.

### **Wellness Academy**

City/County Insurance Services (CIS) hosted their 3<sup>rd</sup> Wellness Academy for members with medical insurance on August 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>. The training was provided at no cost to the City. The Academy was attended by Mandy Biehler, Payroll/HR Specialist and Roberta Likens, Finance Director. The training focused on helping CIS Benefits' members in our efforts to build and sustain a results-oriented wellness program. The goal is to have healthy employees who spend less on health care, take fewer sick days, and are more productive.

### **How to Pay Your Water and Wastewater Bill**

The City started offering a Pay Online option in June of 2016. As of now, we have approximately 19% of payments made online. Customers can log into the payment system and view information about their usage, billings, and payments. In an effort to increase our customer's awareness of this payment option, information will be included with the next billing statement about the online payment option.

The City's website outlines all of the different payment options available which are listed below:

- Pay in person at City Hall - Finance Department.
- Pay by mail.
- Auto-Pay - Each month your payment can be automatically deducted from your checking account.
- Drop Slot - Make check or money order payable to the City of Cottage Grove and place in the drop slot.
- **Pay Online** - We accept payment by Debit/Credit card. You have the option to choose a one-time payment or a recurring payment.

### *Quote of the Week*

*"Smile, it is the key that fits the lock of everybody's heart."*

*~Anthony J. D'Angelo~*