

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Richard Meyers, City Manager

SUBJECT: Friday Update

DATE: August 26, 2016

### **Fires, Fires, Fires**

The fire danger in Cottage Grove and the surrounding area has reached a critical level. We had a fire on Wednesday evening that burned approximately 2 to 3 acres and as the investigation progresses it appears to be intentionally set. Only the fast action and combined efforts of several agencies prevented that fire from getting bigger and causing significant property damage and possibly loss of life.

Additionally, today a fire was intentionally set in the Bohemia Park restroom and another in grass near Walmart. Three 15 year-old youth were apprehended as suspects in those incidents.

The Fire Chief has issued an emergency order restricting activities in all the South Lane County Fire District, which **includes all properties within the City limits**. The Fire Chief's order is attached but basically states:

1. **No** open flames are allowed out of doors, including no campfires, warming fires, cooking fires, or ceremonial fires. Fires are prohibited at all campgrounds and other sites with developed fire pits. Gas powered barbeques are allowed, but are restricted to use on hard, non-flammable surfaces such as patios and driveways, or green irrigated lawns.
2. **No** power equipment such as mowers, chain saws, stump grinders, etc. may be operated on or near dry grass, brush, or trees at any time, **EXCEPT** that mowing of green, irrigated lawns is allowed.
3. **No** smoking outside of buildings or vehicles in any area with dry grass, brush, or trees.
4. **No** operation of welding or metal cutting equipment out of doors in any area with dry grass, brush, or trees.
5. All logging operations, including power saws, cable yarders, and tractor/skidder, feller-buncher, forwarder, or shovel logging operations are prohibited.
6. All construction operations involving dozers or graders are restricted to streets or roads, developed building sites, or other areas of non-flammable surfaces.
7. Any other spark-emitting operation not specifically mentioned is prohibited out of doors.

The conditions are very dangerous and anyone responsible for any response as a result of not complying with the order may be held responsible for all the costs associated with the response.

**Please exercise extreme caution and encourage neighbors and friends to exercise caution. If any dangerous behavior is witnessed please contact the police department immediately.**

### **Yard of the Week**

This week the Yard of the Week is located at 1448 West Main Street. This yard was nominated for the potted plants, both flowers and vegetables that add an amazing variety to the yard.

### **Congressman DeFazio Cottage Grove Townhall**

Congressman Peter DeFazio will be holding a Town Hall on Monday, August 29<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 to 11:00 am at City Hall in the City Council Chambers. Everyone is invited to attend.

### **State Scenic Bikeway Committee Meeting**

The City Manager attended State Scenic Bikeway Committee meetings in Sisters and Bend with the proponent groups of the Sisters to Smith Rock, McKenzie Pass and Twin Bridges Scenic Bikeways. The Committee also rode the Sisters to Smith Rock and the Twin Bridges Scenic Bikeways. The bikeways have been in place for five years and the visit by the committee was a part of the review of the bikeways and evaluation of the Scenic Bikeway program. The City Manager is a member of the Statewide committee appointed by the Director of State Parks to represent the local governments throughout the State.

### **Fire Suppression System Testing**

On Thursday of this week, Omlid and Swinney performed the annual testing and inspection of the City's fire suppression system, including the panels and controllers, smoke detectors, alarms, and overhead sprinklers in City Hall, the City Shop, and the Library/Community Center.

### **Accolades for the Graffiti Rapid Response Team**

On Wednesday of this week, the volunteer Graffiti Rapid Response Team (GRR-Team) was highlighted on KVAL television, Eugene, for their never-ending efforts to remove graffiti as soon as it is discovered anywhere in town. Volunteers scrape, scrub, sand, chemically clean, and paint-over the graffiti; from the nebulous to the profane and everything in-between. GRR-Team founder and spokesperson, Marie Longfellow was interviewed for the news feature, along with GRR-Team volunteers Wendy and Dean Johnson. In addition, Junior Youth Spiritual Empowerment Program student volunteers, Shae Steele and Joseph Farmer, along with their program advisor Brenda Sawyer, were also featured. Thank you to all the GRR-Team volunteers that help keep the community free of unsightly graffiti.

### **National Preparedness Month: Week 1 – Prepare Family and Friends**

September is National Preparedness Month with a theme of:

“Don't Wait. Communicate. Make Your Emergency Plan Today”

For week one the emphasis is to “Prepare Family and Friends”. Make an emergency communications plan so that you can contact family and friends before, after and during an emergency. Your family may not be together if a disaster strikes, so it is important to think about the following situations and plan just in case. Consider the following questions when making a plan:

- How will my family/household get emergency alerts and warnings? Public safety officials use timely and reliable systems to alert you and your family in the event of natural or man-made disasters. How will my family/household get to safe locations for relevant emergencies?

- How will my family/household get in touch if cell phone, internet, or landline doesn't work?
- How will I let loved ones know I am safe?
- How will family/household get to a meeting place after the emergency?

For further information on development of an Emergency Communication Plan go to the website at [www.ready.gov/make-a-plan](http://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan).

### **Community Development Department Intern College Bound**

One of the two Community Development Department's summer interns ended their summer season with the City this week. Glenn Rust who has completed his second year with the department this year worked on the tall grass program and was one of the main planners for the Emergency Preparedness Fair. Glenn is heading back to Linfield University to start his second year. Glenn is working on a double major in Creative Writing and Theater. Thank you Glenn for your work this year and see you next summer.

### **Cottage Grove/Animal House Night at the Eugene Emeralds**

The Eugene Emeralds in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce is having a "Animal House/Cottage Grove" night at the ballpark and they're offering \$3 box seats to anybody from Cottage Grove for the game on Thursday, September 1st. This special price is open to all members of the community. That's right, everyone in Cottage Grove can go out to the ballgame for only \$3 each. Pass this great offer on to everyone and encourage them to get their tickets. Let's fill PK Park with Grovers. See the information below for more information and how to purchase your tickets.

**ANIMAL HOUSE NIGHT**  
 Thursday, September 1  
 Gates Open @ 6:00  
 7:05 First Pitch

**Cottage Grove Night at the Ballpark**  
 Put on your togas and come to the ballpark for Animal House Night, presented by Sweet Cheeks Winery.

**Box Seats are ONLY \$3!**

Tickets can be purchased at the Toyota Ticket Office  
 - 2760 MLK Jr. BLVD - Eugene, OR -  
 Online at Emeraldsbaseball.com  
 or by calling 541-342-5367

**EMERALDS BASEBALL.COM**      **541-DIAL-EMS**

**COTTAGE GROVE AREA**  
 Building on History  
**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

### *Quote of the Week*

*"Never let the fear of striking out get in your way."  
 ~Babe Ruth~*