

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: David Clyne, Interim City Manager

SUBJECT: Friday Update

DATE: December 1, 2023

### **Christmas in Cottage Grove**

Please join us for the Christmas Kick Off this Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 7:00 am to 10:00 pm. There will be a variety of activities, including breakfast with Santa at the Fire Station, Olaf at Cascade Home Center, a holiday bazaar at the Armory, tree lighting at Trailhead Park, and walking in a Winter Wonderland at the CG Speedway. For more details visit: <https://www.cgchamber.com/christmas-in-cottage-grove/>

### **Santa's Workshop**

This Saturday evening December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6:30 to 8:00 pm, Santa and Mrs. Claus will be in his workshop located at City Hall, 400 E. Main Street. Please come down and have your picture taken with Santa. He will also have his Elves handing out goodies to all guests. Enjoy hot apple cider and cookies while waiting to meet with Santa.



### **Cottage Grove Councilor Elected to NLC Board**

Councilor Chalice Savage was elected to the National League of Cities (NLC) Board of Directors by its membership at the 2023 City Summit in Atlanta, GA. She will serve a 2-year term providing strategic direction and guidance for NLC's federal advocacy, governance, and membership activities. Congratulations Chalice on your new role.

### **Final Week of Leaf Pick-Up**

City staff will begin the final round of leaf pickup Monday December 4<sup>th</sup>. Please place your leaves along City streets in approved parking areas. For more information on where to place leaves go to <https://www.cottagegroveor.gov/publicworks/page/leaf-pickup-program>. Only leaves will be picked up, no branches, grass clippings or yard debris. Please do not bag your leaves. If property owners do not have approved locations to place leaves, they can be hauled to the Row River Water Treatment Plant at 3300 Row River Road and placed at the leaf drop off site. Additional drop off locations are along River Road in the parking pullouts. If you have any questions please call the Public Works & Development Department at (541)942-3340. Take advantage of this service as it helps keep our storm drainage system clean and operating properly.

### **Holiday Lights Going Green Program**

With the help of Pacific Power's Blue Sky renewable energy program, our holiday lights are going green this season. The environmental benefits represent a reduction of 3.036 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub>e associated with the electricity used for our holiday lights. Learn more about the benefits of Blue Sky at [joinbluesky.com](http://joinbluesky.com).

### **Deb Barnett Retirement**

After 21 years of service to the City of Cottage Grove, Deb Barnett is retiring. Her last day of work is today December 1<sup>st</sup>. For most of her time working at Cottage Grove she was the only custodian ensuring the City's facilities were clean and ready to use by staff and Cottage Grove residents. Thank you Deb for all your hard work over the years. We wish you the best in your retirement!

### **Cottage Grove Community Center Art Display**

For over three decades, Lions Clubs around the globe have been sponsoring a very special art contest for schools and youth groups. The Lions Club International Peace Poster Contest gives 600,000 children around the globe the chance to express their visions of peace and to inspire the world through their art and creativity.

This year's contest theme is "Dare to Dream". To a young person a dream is not just a wish, hope or desire; it is a path, a goal, an ambition. Achieving that dream takes hard work. This year, Lions Club International asked youth, ages 11 to 13 to show their dream of a peaceful world. The winning entry goes on to higher-level competitions leading to the selection of a global champion.

The entries are displayed at the Cottage Grove Community Center, located at 700 East Gibbs from December 4<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023, except for the winning poster, which is traveling to the higher-level competitions. A full color reproduction takes its place for all to enjoy.

### **Shop with a Cop**

This year the Cottage Grove Police Department is bringing back the *Shop with a Cop* program. The department has participated in this amazing program in the past and we are excited to offer it again to youth and families in our community, ensuring that everyone has a happy holiday season.

The program matches children from local families with local law enforcement to shop for holiday gifts and clothing. This year, the program was funded through a generous donation by our local Cottage Grove Walmart.

The event will take place on Saturday December 16<sup>th</sup> and will include members of the Cottage Grove Police and their families, working together to make this a successful event.

## **Cottage Grove Police Department Weekly Recap**

Community members interested in learning more about service calls made by our local Police Department can find information in the Cottage Grove Sentinel and at <https://www.facebook.com/CottageGrovePolice/>

### **Kindness 9-1-1**

The Cottage Grove Police Department is excited to announce our partnership with Kindness 911.

Kindness 911 is a nonprofit support organization connecting local law enforcement agencies with those they directly serve. Through thoughtful and intentional means, we recognize individuals/groups for their genuine, positive impact on their community.

Our "Kindness Cops" may catch you in a kind act or they may surprise you, to simply show you their appreciation.

Through the generosity of our community, we also donate financially to local, law enforcement supported charities in the name of those who exemplify kindness, compassion and goodwill. The Cottage Grove Police Department has selected South Valley Athletics to receive this year's donation in the name of kindness.

The Cottage Grove Police Department and South Valley Athletics have a shared belief that we can build a strong foundation and support in our community by investing in young people. We know that children who have opportunities to participate in athletics and activities have higher likelihood of success both socially and academically as they grow.

Kindness 911 arms our Kindness Cops & Crew with "Kindness 911 Citations" so that when they see someone showing kindness, generosity, selflessness or a heart for our community they can present that person with a citation, a tangible showing of their appreciation.

In addition to our citation program, we also have the honor in the creation of "Kindness 911 Stings" for amazing individuals that inspire us, make our communities better and frankly never ask for applause but deserve a standing ovation. Kindness 911 has created strategic partnerships that can mobilize to show these local heroes how truly grateful we are for them with the assistance of the Cottage Grove Police Department.

More information and details about the program can be found at <https://www.kindness911.org/>

### **Quote of the Week:**

*"December is the time for remembering the past and reaching toward the future."*

*~ Ralph Waldo Emerson*