


MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Richard Meyers, City Manager 

SUBJECT: Friday Update

DATE: February 17, 2017

Sockball Fight

The Cottage Grove Youth Advisory Council will be holding their Sockball Fight in the Armory on Monday, February 20th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Bring new socks to donate and have fun throwing socks in a traditional snowball like sock ball fight. The socks collected will be donated to Community Sharing after the event.

YAC Academy Postponed

The Youth Advisory Council Academy Day has been postponed it will be rescheduled to a date later this Spring.

Regional Fiber Consortium

The City Manager attended a meeting of the Regional Fiber Consortium today. The consortium continues to seek ways to improve the access of broadband to rural communities. Members of the consortium include; Coburg, Cottage Grove, Creswell, Drain, Eugene, Florence, Klamath Falls, Lane County, Lowell, Merrill, Oakridge, Springfield, Veneta, Westfir and Yoncalla. The City of Cottage Grove has been a part of the consortium since the beginnings back in 1999. The fiber assets owned by the consortium have directly benefited the City. The City leases fiber from the consortium to provide transport between the City's fiber network and the Willamette Exchange in Eugene.

Cycle Oregon

The City Manager and Travis Palmer, Cottage Grove Chamber Executive Director met with Tara Corbin from Cycle Oregon to begin preparations for the upcoming visit by over 2,400 cyclists and support staff on Wednesday, September 13th. Cycle Oregon will be coming to the area and staying at Schwarz Park as they did 10 years ago. The Cycle Oregon ride this year will be celebrating their 30th Anniversary. To celebrate the 30th they are repeating the ride from the 20th Anniversary which was the most popular ride they have held. The City and Chamber are planning some activities to make this ride memorable and to encourage riders to return to the community in the future.

Application Workshop offered by County at Community Center

Lane County Recruitment & Selection Coordinator Laura Vinson will be hosting an Application Workshop in the Shepherd Room at the Cottage Grove Community Center on March 7th from 11:00 am to Noon. If you are interested in hearing more about Lane County's Recruitment &

Selection processes, finding current job openings, or how to complete a more successful application packet, please plan to attend. No fee or registration is required. All are welcome and invited to attend.

Police Department Personnel Visit Area Nursing Homes

Traditionally the police association, in conjunction with Cottage Grove High School, would go caroling and provide cocoa for three assisted living facilities in town during December. However, due to snow, the December performances were cancelled.

On February 16th, members of the Police Department accompanied the Cottage Grove High School choir and provided cookies, apple juice, and a musical performance for residents at Middlefield Oaks, Coast Fork and Magnolia Gardens.

New Police Officer

On February 16th Officer Thomas Roberts began work as a police officer with the Cottage Grove Police Department. He formerly worked for the Salem Police Department. Thomas has entered his first phase of training. Welcome to Cottage Grove Thomas.

Replacement Equipment Has Arrived

At the end of last week, Public Works staff traveled to Portland to pick-up two pieces of replacement rolling stock equipment which will be used to support utility operations. The first piece of equipment was a 2017 Ford F-450 Tipper Truck with a 2-yard dump body. This equipment replaced a 1985 Ford F-350 Tipper Truck, also with a 2-yard dump body. The second piece of equipment was a 2017 Freightliner Dump Truck with a Columbia 12-yard dump body and automatic tarp system. This equipment replaced a 1979 Ford Dump Truck with a 10-yard dump body. Both pieces of new equipment were acquired through the Oregon State Cooperative Purchasing Program. The Tipper Truck is currently being modified for the installation of a 9 foot long, 2 yard dump box. City Shop staff will install the dump box after making the necessary modifications to the cab and chassis. The old, outdated equipment was recently sold at public auction. The cost of this replacement equipment was included in the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 City budget.

Quotes of the Week

“I hope I shall possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain what I consider the most enviable of all titles, the character of an honest man.”

~ George Washington~

“Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other.”

~ Abraham Lincoln~



Editorial: Internet 'Safe Zones' are worth considering

Concept is simple, innovative and proactive

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SUBMITTED PHOTO/AMY SLAY

The idea of a "Safe Zone" for internet purchases has merit.

Buying or selling items online that require a face-to-face, cash-for-property transaction to conclude a sale or purchase can be a scary — and sometimes dangerous — proposition. Buyers and sellers usually don't know each other, or their backgrounds, which creates a safety concern for those involved.

Cottage Grove, a small community south of Eugene, recently took a low-cost, innovative idea utilized by more than 300 police departments across the country to help make those transactions safer for its residents. The city created a designated "Safe Zone" where those face-to-face transactions can occur under the watchful eyes of police officers. It's a simple, proactive safety concept that could be implemented here, too.

Following the leads of police elsewhere, Cottage Grove's city leaders decided to install cameras near the police station to create 24-hour-a-day video coverage. The city also posted a sign noting that the specific area is an "Internet Purchase Exchange Location" and is under video surveillance at all times. Police officers do not participate in the transactions, but the department's dispatchers monitor the cameras. The recorded videos are saved for up to 75 days, according to Cottage Grove Police Chief Scott Shepherd. Purchasing and installing the cameras along with the sign only cost

the city about \$200, he said.

The site isn't limited to Cottage Grove residents, it can be used by anybody, anytime. It can also be utilized for other things, like custody exchanges, adding an increased level of safety to them.

The "Safe Zone" concept is direct and simple. While the overwhelmingly vast majority of internet-related transactions are legitimate, the idea for "Safe Zones" percolated from a series of horrific, high-profile crimes across the country in the past few years stemming from transactions that originated online. According to a variety of websites that track what some have labeled as "Craigslist killings," there have been more than 100 murders associated with such meetings since

2007. By its own numbers, Craigslist generates 50 billion page views per month with approximately 60 million users in the United States, and the bargain behemoth isn't the only company in the business of digitally connecting buyers and sellers.

Daily Astorian reporter Jack Heffernan contacted each of the police departments on the North Coast about "Safe Zones" and none have an existing program. We believe they should. It's a proactive idea the departments should investigate and consider initiating.

The logic for a "Safe Zone" is brilliantly simple. If a buyer or seller goes into a deal intent on committing a crime, chances are the last place that person wants to be is near a police station and on videotape. And if a person balks at the idea of the transaction taking place near a police station, it's a good bet it's probably someone you don't want to meet.

Police also recommend consumers always take common-sense safety steps for internet transactions: Don't go to a transaction alone; make sure a friend or family member is aware of the details; always insist on meeting in a public place during the daytime; and never go into a stranger's house or let a stranger into yours.

Internet-associated crimes are a byproduct of the digital revolution and initiatives like "Safe Zones" can help curb their growth and possibly save lives. While it may not have been a problem here in the past, it only takes once for it to become one.

Let's not let that happen.

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