

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Mike Sauerwein, City Manager

SUBJECT: Friday Update

DATE: April 5, 2024

Best Tasting Water Contest

Oregon utility companies from the Cascades to the Coast met on Tuesday and held a best tasting water competition. Eleven water districts provide samples that were judged by 5 brewers and one from Dutch Bros. The water was judged in three categories: scent, flavor, and aftertaste. Judges used saltine crackers in between samples to cleanse their palates. In the end Cottage Grove emerged as the first place winner. Corvallis' H.D. Taylor water treatment plant came in second and Marcola was third.

Cottage Grove received a plaque and bragging rights for the next year. Also, for winning first place Cottage Grove' Row River Water Treatment Plant will have the opportunity to compete with drinking water treatment plants from Idaho, Washington, and California. Fingers crossed we can finish first again. Below is the link to the KEZI article.

https://www.kezi.com/news/oregon-utility-companies-gather-for-best-tasting-water-contest/article_86444456-f14a-11ee-ae83-270356c3005b.html#

Firewood and Wood Chips Available

The City has a large pile of firewood and wood chips available at the Row River Water Treatment Plant located at 3300 Row River Road. The wood and chips are free and available until gone. Both the firewood and chips are offered as self serve. The City is also taking requests for dump truck loads of wood chips. If you are interested in one or more 10-yard loads of chips please email Faye Stewart at pwdirector@cottagegrove.org with your request.

Bohemia Park Entry Plaza Project

The Economic Development Administration has approved the construction documents for the Bohemia Park Entry Plaza Project. This project is a \$1.7 million enhancement of the park located at the corner of E. Main Street and 10th Street. The funding for this project is made possible by grants from the EDA and Oregon State Parks. The project includes a splash pad, playground equipment, bathrooms, hardscape, historical interpretive panels, and home to the future Blue Goose mural. Staff will release the construction documents next week for bids with the intent to start construction late May.

March 2024 Building Inspection Services Report

For the month of March the Building Division of the Public Works & Development Department issued 57 permits and performed 122 inspections in Cottage Grove. In Creswell, 16 permits were issued, one for a single family home and 47 inspections were performed. In Veneta, 28 permits were issued, two for single family homes and 62 inspections were performed. In Coburg 10 permits were issued, one for a single family home and 28 inspections were performed. Staff reviewed and approved 21 plan sets in March and 16 plan sets are in review or on hold for additional information.

2024 Arbor Month Planting Event

The City of Cottage Grove Urban Forestry Committee is kicking off Arbor Month with a tree-planting event tomorrow, April 6th at 10:00 am at the corner of S. 5th Street and E Monroe Avenue. All are invited to join the Urban Forestry Committee and City staff to plant some trees along the park strip off S. 5th Street. These trees are part of the Committee's effort to help restore our urban canopy, and provide more resilient and sustainable trees. If you have any questions, please contact Eric Mongan, City Planner at (541) 942-3340. We hope to see you there!

Quote of the Week:

"Weather forecast for tonight: dark."

- George Carlin