

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Mike Sauerwein, City Manager

SUBJECT: Friday Update

DATE: March 21, 2025

### **March 2025 – In like a “lamb” out like a “lion”**



“In like a lion, out like a lamb” has always seemed straightforward enough, when March starts, it is still winter, and by the end of the month spring has begun. The opposite seems to be the case this year.

From Friday evening to mid-day Sunday, the City received 4.58 inches of rain. The amount of rain over that period was considered equivalent to a 50-year event.

During this time, the City of Cottage Grove opened an Emergency Operations Center to monitor the event and make preparations should an evacuation be necessary. There were Level 1 evacuation notices sent to property owners in areas of concern over the emergency notification system. The City also sent out notifications through text messages and on social media.

City staff and CERT team members mobilized to open an Emergency Shelter at the Community Center on Sunday and Red Cross took control of the shelter at 3:00 pm. The Emergency Shelter operated with Red Cross staff and local volunteers until 1:30 pm Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup>.

City Utility staff opened a secondary access road, connecting Cemetery Road with W. Main Street, allowing emergency vehicles and property owners to access their property by bypassing the flooded area of Cemetery Road. Staff continued addressing high water areas, cleaning catch basins, and restocking sand and bags at Coiner Park.

The City storm drainage system is designed to handle regular daily rain up to a 15-year flood. Due to the high water flows, the City experienced three known locations of sanitary sewer system overflows. The sites were cleaned and disinfected per DEQ requirements and a notification was sent to the DEQ and City of Creswell.

Most of the damage was to individual properties and homes. Great Days Early Education is the only business we are aware of that experienced flooding. By midday Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup> the majority of the water had receded and headed back to normal conditions.

### **43<sup>rd</sup> OAMR Conference**

City Recorder Mindy Roberts and Deputy City Recorder Jessica Klarr attended the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Oregon Association of Municipal Records (OAMR) Mid-Year Conference. On March 13<sup>th</sup>, Mindy and Jessica attended the Academy Session on Mental Toughness, a presentation by Author and Consultant, Preethi Fernando. On March 14<sup>th</sup>, Jessica participated in the Athenian Leadership Dialogue facilitated by Dr. Jane Long based on the book Dare to Lead by Brene Brown.

### **Pardon Our Dust**

Historic Downtown and Main Street Businesses are open during construction. Go shopping in Historic Downtown Cottage Grove and receive a stamp with purchase, from participating businesses. When your stamp card is full, turn it in at the Chamber for a chance to win \$500 in local gift cards. For more details, visit: <https://www.cgchamber.com/shoplocal/>



### **Red Cross Emergency Shelter at Community Center**

The Cottage Grove community came together to open an Emergency Shelter at the Community Center for twelve flood victims from Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, through midday on Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup>.

Volunteers from the Red Cross and community members staffed the shelter overnight. A special thank you to CERT volunteers and City Staff who helped set up the site on such short notice, and to Community Sharing for the donation of food.

The Emergency Shelter is now closed. This site will reopen if we experience extreme weather. If you have questions or would like to volunteer in the future, please contact Community Coordinator, Teresa Cowan, at 541-942-1185 ext. 2.

### **Storytime with Bobber the Water Safety Dog**



Join us for a special storytime with Bobber the Water Safety Dog and the Army Corps of Engineers on Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am. Bobber the Water Safety Dog and his friends will share water safety skills, read fun stories and activities related to water safety. This special program is brought to you by the Army Corps of Engineers.

### **Spring Break Matinee at Cottage Grove Public Library**

Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm, Cottage Grove Public Library is partnering with South Valley Athletics to provide a free movie showing. Join us to watch IF, starring Cailey Fleming, Ryan Reynolds, and John Krasinski.

In the movie's plot, a young girl who goes through a difficult experience begins to see everyone's imaginary friends who have been left behind as their real-life friends have grown up.



### **Poetry and Short Writings Open Mic Night**

Please join us during National Poetry Month for readings of poetry and short writings by local writers on Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. We will be showcasing some of our local writers and potential participants are invited to email [joyousshambles@gmail.com](mailto:joyousshambles@gmail.com) for more information.

### **EDA Main Street Revitalization Project**



Wildish has completed the installation of the 12" water main from 8<sup>th</sup> Street to the Bridge. Next week they will work on the tie-ins on the side streets. Everything is running smoothly and on schedule. If you are interested in seeing the plan for the Main Street Revitalization Project there is a schematic drawing hanging in the lobby of City Hall (400 E. Main Street). If you have any questions about the project, please call Shauna Neigh, Project Coordinator, at 541-787-4153.

### **Cleveland Street Infrastructure Project**



Delta Construction finished the temporary access road to 4<sup>th</sup> Street and is making progress in placing the 10" water line from 6<sup>th</sup> Street to the west on Cleveland Street.

Cleveland Street and the intersection of Cleveland & 6<sup>th</sup> Street will be under construction through the end of June 2025 for infrastructure improvements and a full reconstruction of the road. 6<sup>th</sup> Street will remain open throughout the duration of the project. Cleveland Street will remain open to local traffic only.

## **Reminder from the Cottage Grove Police Department**



With the Main Street Construction project underway and the increased activity, we want to ensure our downtown remains safe for everyone. We would also like to share some important reminders with everyone.

First, traffic fines are **DOUBLE** in a construction zone. ORS 811.111, violating a speed limit has a fine between \$225-\$875, depending on the speed violation. Be sure to drive cautiously down Main Street as more pedestrians are walking to and from businesses, especially as the weather begins to be nicer.

Secondly, be sure to watch for the temporary traffic control devices. The north and south side streets now have STOP signs. Be sure to make a complete stop, as a fine is \$525 for Failure to Obey Traffic Control Device, ORS 811.265.

One last, incredibly important reminder – the businesses down Main Street are open during the construction and the Cottage Grove Police Department is committed to maintaining a safe environment during construction so you can continue to support your favorite local shops down Main Street.

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

*“ Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time.”*

*~ Ruth Bader Ginsburg*