

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Richard Meyers, City Manager

SUBJECT: Friday Update

DATE: September 29, 2023

Yard of the Week

The last Yard of the Week for the season was awarded to the beautiful yard located at 1425 W. Harrison. 26 years ago the Yard of the Week program started when a much younger City Manager brought the program to Cottage Grove and partnered with the Chamber of Commerce to recognize residents in the community for doing their part to beautify the community. As the final Yard of the Week after 26 years, the City Manager purchased a bird feeder, bulbs and some gardening tools and awarded them to the resident in addition to the normal prize. Over 26 years, that is about 520 Yard of the Weeks.

Reduced-Cost Storm Drain Cleaning Program

Local businesses have until October 31st to opt in to a new, reduced-cost storm drain cleaning program. Lane County's Stormwater Management Program has partnered with Stormwater Protection Systems (SPS) to provide discounted storm drain cleaning. This voluntary program allows businesses throughout the county to clean their private storm drains for a reduced flat fee of \$65 per drain.

Stormwater often drains directly into rivers and streams without treatment, resulting in pollutants from parking lots and roadways contributing to water quality issues. Storm drain cleaning and maintenance are vital in ensuring clean waterways by removing contaminants like oil, pesticides, and fertilizers.

Businesses are responsible for cleaning and maintaining privately owned storm drains in their parking lots. Removing debris and sediment from storm drains reduces flooding by increasing stormwater system capacity during heavy rainfall. The program aims to make this service more affordable and encourage bi-annual cleanings—improving critical streams and rivers.

The \$65-per-drain fee covers debris removal from standard parking lot drains, power washing in and around the drain, and disposal of all contaminated sediment. The program does not cover additional fees for jetting, repair, or oversized storm drains.

Businesses are eligible to sign up each fall and spring in anticipation of heavy rainfall and more water entering the storm drain systems. To register a company for the fall program, visit www.LaneCountyOR.gov/SCAP and sign up by October 31st.

City Recorder attends OAMR Annual Conference

City Recorder Mindy Roberts attended the 41st Annual Conference of the Oregon Association of Municipal Recorders, September 20th through 22nd. The conference was a gathering of City Recorders from around the state to network and participate in educational opportunities. This year Mindy attended sessions including a Microsoft Tips & Tricks Lab, Records Management 102, Legislative Updates and *Unleashing your Leadership Super Powers* by award-winning author and leadership expert Andy Masters.

National Preparedness Month Recap

To round out the last week of National Preparedness Month, the City covered two important emergency preparedness practices; building a disaster kit and making an emergency plan. Ready.gov and the American Red Cross offer helpful information regarding both.

For disaster kit-building visit:

<https://www.ready.gov/kit>

<https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/survival-kit-supplies.html>

For emergency planning visit:

<https://www.ready.gov/plan>

<https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/make-a-plan.html>

Thank you for participating during National Preparedness Month. Congratulations to all our winners: Allison Fromong, Shanna Antonelli, and Travis Palmer. Stay tuned, as we will announce the winners of the final weekly raffle and grand prize winner on Monday via the City's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/CityofCottageGroveOR/>

Assistant City Planner attends Floodplain Management Conference

Last week, Assistant City Planner Allison Crow attended a week long floodplain management conference in Spokane, WA. The Northwest Regional Floodplain Management Association (NORFMA), hosts an annual regional conference for floodplain managers and others within the industry from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Alaska. This year, Allison attended many sessions including; training on the National Flood Insurance Policy (NFIP) changes, the FEMA State of the Region, recent evaluation of flood trends in the Pacific Northwest, and post disaster responsibilities for floodplain managers. The annual NORFMA conference is a great place to network with other Oregon communities and our regional representatives at the State and Federal level. Allison is working with both state and federal employees to create an Oregon Floodplain Managers group to further the camaraderie within the floodplain management community, so we can better serve our residents. If you have any questions or want to hear more about the topics they learned about, stop into Community Development in City Hall Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

City Manager Retires

Today was filled with cleaning and organizing files and information for the transition to the interim City Manager, David Clyne, next week. After 26 years with the City of Cottage Grove, I am leaving the office for the last time this evening. It is bitter sweet. Thank you to all the staff and employees that have made working in Cottage Grove so wonderful. It has been a pleasure working with you. I will miss our time together.

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers that do so much for the community. When I was exploring the opportunity to apply for the City Manager position more than 26 years ago, I was impressed with the eagerness of citizens in this community to come together and address issues or problems.

Thank you to the Mayors and Councilors that have given me the honor of working for them. Thank you for the policy guidance and decisions that make service to the community possible.

It has been a great pleasure serving the community. I am looking forward to the next chapter and I am sure local service will continue to play a part in my life. Thank you to everyone for the Happy Retirement wishes.

Quote of the Week:

“Often when you think you’re at the end of something, you’re at the beginning of something else”

~ Fred Rogers