

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Richard Meyers, City Manager

SUBJECT: Friday Update

DATE: April 28, 2023

### **Youth Advisory Council Meeting**

The Cottage Grove Youth Advisory Council will be meeting on Monday, May 1, 2023.

### **Special Election Ballots are in the Mail**

The Lane County Elections office has placed ballots in the USPS mail stream for the 2023 Special Election. Information regarding ballot content is included in the Lane County Voters' Pamphlet; voters who have not received a voters' pamphlet in the mail may view it online by visiting [www.LaneCountyOR.gov/elections](http://www.LaneCountyOR.gov/elections).

Additionally, Lane County's 21 ballot drop boxes will remain open until 8:00 pm on Election Day, May 16, 2023. Drop boxes are open 24/7. The ballot box in Cottage Grove is located in the parking lot in front of the Community Center, 700 E Gibbs. A list of all drop box locations is included with every ballot or can be found online at: [www.LaneCountyOR.gov/elections](http://www.LaneCountyOR.gov/elections).

Voters can track the status of their mail ballot by visiting [www.oregonvotes.gov/MyVote](http://www.oregonvotes.gov/MyVote).

Voters may return their voted vote-by-mail ballots in one of the following ways:

- Regular mail. Ballots must be postmarked no later than May 16, 2023 and received no later than May 23, 2023 to be counted.
- A 24/7 ballot drop box.
- Lane County Elections. Ballots can be turned in directly to the Lane County Elections Office during business hours.

Voters with questions can email [elections@lanecountyor.gov](mailto:elections@lanecountyor.gov) or call (541)682-4234.

### **Cottage Grove Connector Update**

Originally, the contractor for the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Hwy 99 project had announced a scheduled closure of the I-5 Connector starting on Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. Due to a forecasted change in the weather on Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, the ODOT Contractor will assess the weather conditions to make a decision to continue as planned or move the start date out for dryer conditions. While this is confusing and can be frustrating, the change of the closure may be necessary to make sure that the best conditions are present to have good paving results. Your patience is appreciated as ODOT navigates around this change in the weather. For additional information and links to updates from ODOT, visit the City's Construction Corner webpage at: <https://www.cottagegroveor.gov/publicworks/page/construction-corner>.

### **League of Oregon Cities Conference**

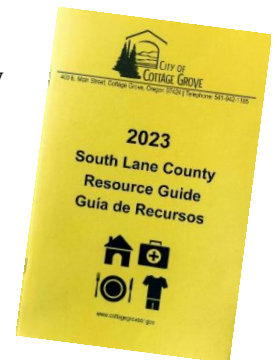
The Mayor Solesbee, Councilors Fleck, Merryday and Savage, City Manager and Assistant to the City Manager joined about 300 local elected and appointed officials from around Oregon for the League of Oregon Cities 2023 Local Government Spring Conference this week. The two-day conference was filled with discussions and presentations regarding homelessness, workforce housing, infrastructure funding, behavioral health and housing, opioid settlement, cybersecurity, building equitable and inclusive cities, 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment and the current status of the legislative session. Included in the conference were workshops for Mayors, Councilors and City Managers. Not only did the conference provide a wealth of prepared presentations from state or other local officials but the conference also provided ample opportunities to network with service providers and other officials and have focused conversations.

### **2023 South Lane County Resource Guide**

Copies of the 2023 South Lane County Resource Guide are available now at the Community Center and Library. This guide is a list of social services and community resources that are available within the community.

The online version is available at: [www.cottagegroveor.gov/community/page/south-lane-county-resource-guide](http://www.cottagegroveor.gov/community/page/south-lane-county-resource-guide).

If your organization would like copies of the guide or to submit additions and corrections, please contact Jessica Klarr, Community Coordinator Assistant at (541) 942-1185 or email: [comcenter@cottagegrove.org](mailto:comcenter@cottagegrove.org).



### **Annual Tree Branch Pick-Up**

The annual tree branch and limb pickup began last Monday. City staff has opened the drop off site at 3300 Row River Road for limbs and branches. City residents can use this site now through May 19, 2023. Please do not drop off limbs and branches at the former N. 12th Street site. The second and final branch pick-up will be May 15 through 19. Please don't put your limbs and branches in the parking areas along the streets until May 14 for the final week of pickup. For additional information on the tree branch and limb pickup please visit: <https://www.cottagegroveor.gov/publicworks/page/tree-branch-pickup-program>.

### **Erich Schroeder Retirement Party**

Please join us on May 3, 2023 noon at the Cottage Grove Armory to thank Erich for his service to Cottage Grove working at the Water Reclamation Facility from 2008 through 2023. Erich started with Cottage Grove as a Treatment Plant Operator and was promoted to Plant Superintendent in 2017. He helped guide the development and expansion of the reclaimed water reuse program, rehabilitation of Clarifier #1, and exploring drying of the biosolids. Please stop by for lunch and show your appreciation for Erich.

### **Cottage Grove Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan Open House**

Join us on Tuesday, May 2, 2023 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Cottage Grove Armory to learn about and help shape the Cottage Grove Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan. Your feedback will help identify needs, solutions and priorities for making walking and bicycling safer and easier in our community. The Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan will identify short- and long-range solutions to

create convenient, comfortable and safe options for people who walk and bike throughout the community.

For more information about the plan please visit <https://walkbikecg.com/> or contact Eric Mongan, City Planner at 541-942-3340.

### **Tall Grass/Hazardous Vegetation Enforcement**

Just a friendly reminder that property owners or persons in control of property in the City are required to cut or remove tall grass, hazardous vegetation and combustible materials during the fire season from May 15, 2023 to November 1, 2023 (CGMC 8.12 Nuisances).

Tall grass and hazardous vegetation includes: wild blackberry bushes, weeds & grass more than 12 inches tall anywhere on your property, including public lands out to the street. Vegetation that is likely to endanger buildings or other property should it catch on fire must also be cut or removed.

During the fire season inspections will be made and property owners notified that they must cut or remove the hazardous vegetation. Failure to cut or remove the grass or vegetation will result in the City abating the problem. The cost of abatement will be charged to the property and if unpaid will become a lien against the property. Questions can be answered by the Public Works & Development Department at City Hall, by calling 541-942-3340 or by email: [planner@cottagegrove.org](mailto:planner@cottagegrove.org).

### **Green Living Fair**

Last weekend the City of Cottage Grove participated in the Green Living Fair sharing information on the sustainability and conservation efforts that are in place. If anyone is interested in learning about these practices please drop by City Hall and pick up the City of Cottage Grove Sustainability and Conservation Efforts pamphlet. We also promoted the upcoming 'Fix-It Fair'. This will be a partnership with Lane County and the South Valley Farmers Market on July 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Set aside all your damaged stuff. Bring it, they will fix it, mend it, and show you how.

The Cottage Grove Urban Forestry Committee also attended the Green Living Fair sharing the importance of trees and proper placement. There were many photos of the work they have done to beautify the community. The Urban Forestry Committee will be sending out a quarterly newsletter. If you are interested in receiving one, please contact Eric Mongan ([planner@cottagegrove.org](mailto:planner@cottagegrove.org)) to be added to the email list. A raffle was held for two trees, a Flowering Cherry and a Dogwood. Congratulations to the winners: Rayme Epperson and Karen Hill.

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

*"Some sunshine is good for the soul, but I always make sure I wear a big hat."*

*~ Miranda Kerr*