

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Richard Meyers, City Manager

SUBJECT: Friday Update

DATE: May 5, 2023

### **Yard of the Week**

Next week the much anticipated event of the year, the Yard of the Week, begins its 26<sup>th</sup> Season. If you see a local single family residence with an amazing yard be sure to nominate the yard for Yard of the Week. To nominate a yard simply call City Hall at (541)942-5501 or the Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce at (541)942-2411. The winning yard receives a gift package that includes a Chamber of Commerce Gift Certificate, the water portion of the City utility bill paid and most importantly the placement of the coveted Yard of the Week sign in their yard for a week.

### **Track the Lane County Ballot Returns**

The Lane County Elections Office is offering voters a way to track ballot returns in Lane County. The new dashboard allows viewers to see how and where ballots were returned, how many have been returned, and how many ballots have signature challenges. Results will be published every few days, after ballots have gone through the full signature verification process.

The dashboard can be viewed by visiting [www.LaneCountyOR.gov/elections](http://www.LaneCountyOR.gov/elections) and selecting the “Ballot Returns Dashboard” button. The button appears on the right side of the screen on computers; those using mobile devices will need to scroll down.

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

### **Don't Forget to Sign Your Ballot**

Voters are urged to return their ballots as early as possible to ensure they are received at Lane County Elections by the 8:00 p.m. deadline on Tuesday, May 16.

In order to be counted, ballots must be received at Lane County Elections by:

- 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 must also remember to sign their ballot return envelopes before mailing or returning their completed ballot to Lane County Elections.

The signature is a security measure used to verify identity. Election workers who have received training in handwriting analysis compare it to signatures in the voter registration record. A ballot may only be counted if the signatures match.

If you forget to sign the envelope or your signature does not match, you will receive a notice from Lane County Elections advising you of the issue and how to fix or “cure” it. You have until the 21<sup>st</sup> day after the election to cure your signature issue and have your ballot counted.

What can you do to ensure your signature matches?

- **Sign your natural signature.** If you don’t usually sign with a middle initial don’t sign your ballot envelope with it. Election workers are trained to look for specific characteristics within each signature. If you think your signature has changed significantly, contact Lane County Elections.
- **Don’t sign another person’s name.** Even if someone gives you permission to sign, or you have power of attorney, it is against the law in Oregon to sign another person’s name on a return envelope. It’s forgery.
- **Request help if you have difficulty signing.** If it is difficult for you to sign, on either a temporary or permanent basis, you can complete a signature attestation form and return it to Lane County Elections along with a new voter registration form. Completing these forms will allow you to use a signature stamp or other indicator that represents your signature.
- **Correct a mistake if you accidentally sign your name on someone in your household’s envelope.** If you and another person in your household sign each other’s return ballot envelopes, simply place a line through the incorrect signatures and sign the correct envelopes.

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### **Budget Committee Meeting**

The City of Cottage Grove Budget Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm to begin the discussion of the 2023-24 Proposed Budget. The agenda and 2023-24 Proposed Budget will be available after May 10<sup>th</sup> at City Hall or on the City’s webpage.

### **Prospector Park Log Pavilion Update**

The City Utility Crew has re-assembled the log picnic pavilion donated by Weyerhaeuser at Prospector Park. They are currently installing the 2 x 6 tongue and groove roof material and will finish the project installing new tin roofing. The pavilion looks great. It should be open for use by the end of the month.



### **International Code Council Scott Copp Leadership Award**

This week Melany Klemmer, City Residential Inspector and Permit Specialist, was notified that the Oregon Permit Technicians Association is the inaugural recipient of the 2023 ICC W. Scott Copp Chapter Leadership Award. Melany is the OPTA Treasure and one five board members recognized for the award. The W. Scott Copp Chapter Leadership Award is offered annually to a Chapter Officer who serves as a champion of the Code Council mission and inspires others to become Code Council leaders. 2023 is the inaugural year for this prestigious award which honors the memory of Scott Copp who was a true leader and dedicated his career to advancing building safety at the local, state, regional and national levels. The award announcement was made this week at ICC Leadership Academy in Tampa Florida. Congratulations Melany and OPTA for receiving the inaugural W. Scott Copp Leadership award and all the hard work you're performing in Oregon.

The Purposes of OPTA are: To develop and advance the members' professional abilities in the performance of permit duties. To ensure the health, safety, and welfare of all people in matters relating to permits. To unite the members in pursuit of excellent customer service for the betterment of the people in the area serviced by the OPTA. To secure a closer official and personal relationship among Permit Technicians throughout the State of Oregon. To promote higher professional and ethical standards in the field of Permit Technicians. To establish and maintain a good working relationship within the construction industry. To encourage and provide a forum for the free exchange of ideas and information among its members, to furnish information of an instructional nature to its members and to other interested and related parties. To compile and disseminate permitting information useful to the membership in the performance of their duties and responsibilities. To promote continuing education, training, and certification. To promote statewide uniformity among jurisdictions.

### **Erich Schroeder Retirement**

Wednesday City staff attended a retirement party for Erich Schroeder celebrating his 15 years as a City employee. Erich joined the Cottage Grove Water Reclamation Facility in May of 2008 as a treatment plant operator. In 2018 he was promoted to Plant Superintendent. Erich was instrumental in many upgrades to the facility; new electronic operation system monitoring, construction of the 10 million gallon treated effluent storage pond, purchase of a portable high volume pump, rebuilding of the headworks screen unit, replacement of the influent pumps, early support of the Clarifier #1 rebuild project, and research of biosolid dryers. Erich is a member of the North West Clean Water Association (NWCWA) and was instrumental in starting the annual golf scholarship fundraiser to support training for individuals looking to start a career in wastewater treatment. His love for his job and advancing improvements to treating wastewater were evident. Thank you Erich for all your hard work, leadership and contributions to the Water Reclamation Facility.



### **Library Hosts Charro Exhibit**

The Charro Exhibit Grand Opening event on Tuesday was a great success! 75 people attended the festivities, which included information about charrería from Antonio Huerta, rope tricks, and dancing from various regions of Mexico by Ballet Folklorico. Comunidad Y Herencia Cultural coordinated the performances and exhibit in partnership with the Cottage Grove Public Library. The Charro Attire Exhibit will remain on display through June 2, 2023.

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

On Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, City staff and consultants from HDR, Inc and ODOT hosted an open house at the Cottage Grove Armory. This is the first of two scheduled open houses for the project. Topics discussed at the open house included: goals and objectives of the plan, system gaps, and current conditions. Thank you to all who attended. If you would like more information on the project please visit [www.walkbikecg.com](http://www.walkbikecg.com) or contact Eric Mongan, City Planner at [planner@cottagegrove.org](mailto:planner@cottagegrove.org).

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

*"That's how we're gonna win. Not fighting what we hate, saving what we love."*

*~Rose Tico, The Last Jedi*