

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Richard Meyers, City Manager

SUBJECT: Friday Update

DATE: April 1, 2016

OBON SOCIETY Exhibit at the Library

The Cottage Grove Public Library is proud to welcome the OBON SOCIETY and their exhibit of World War II artifacts. The OBON SOCIETY is dedicated to returning to families, items that were taken as souvenirs of war. There will be an opening event on Saturday, April 2nd at noon at the Cottage Grove Public Library. The Directors of the OBON SOCIETY will be present to present the exhibit to our community, and World War II Veterans will be on hand to experience this moving exhibit and to share their stories with the public. Please join us for this event. The exhibit will be available throughout April to view and experience.

Youth Advisory Council

The Cottage Grove Youth Advisory Council will be meeting on Monday, April 4th from 6:15 to 7:30 pm.

Northwest Regional City/County Manager Conference

The City Manager attended the annual Spring NW City Managers Conference in Stevenson, Washington. Local government managers from Oregon, Washington, Alaska and even Poland attended the conference. The conference covered topics that included marijuana legislation impacts, innovation in local government, emergency response and preparation for communities, homelessness and ethics. Representatives from the International City/County Management Association attended from Washington D.C. and reviewed the Code of Ethics. Additionally, the Spring Conference also hosts the Annual Oregon/Washington Managers Volleyball match that has a legacy and fame that legend has it actually began the use of the phrase, "March Madness". The Oregon managers are proud to announce that they won the competition by soundly defeating the Washington managers 2 out of 3 games. However, it is sad to report that we will not be bringing the trophy back to Oregon after a few years residing in Washington. It appears that the historic treasured victor's cup was lost by our Washington counterparts. The Oregon managers were promised a new trophy as a replacement, but it was left on the City Administrator's desk in Snoqualmie.

Community Center & Library Delayed Opening

The Cottage Grove Community Center and Library building will be closed until 10:00 am on Tuesday, April 5th. City crews will be installing sewer cleanouts in the building. The cleanouts will allow staff to service the sewer lines in the building and help prevent problems that have plagued the building in the past.

Outdoor Season Has Begun

The restrooms at All-America City Square were opened this week for the summer. We are no longer using the automatic locks on the doors at Coiner Park or All-America City Square. The restrooms will be closed each night when our contracted cleaning company, Full Circle, does their daily cleaning. We hope this eliminates people from circumventing the automatic locks and spending the night in the restrooms. In the past the overnight restroom guests would vandalize and trash the restroom making it unusable by others.

Park lights

City staff has been wrestling with the problem of providing more light in Coiner Park. The current electrical load in Coiner Park was over loaded. Adding even one additional light was not possible without either a major electrical supply upgrade or the removal of existing lights or equipment. Recently several of the lights in the park needed to be repaired and have the ballasts replaced. Staff explored the option of rather than replacing the burned out lights or ballasts to retrofit a new LED light into the existing lights and reduce the load and increase our ability to install additional lights. After consulting with our contract electrician it was determined that we could retrofit the lights for a similar cost and it would reduce the electrical load significantly to allow for additional new LED lights. One old light in the park uses nearly 6 times the electricity that one comparable LED light would use. Many of the lights in Coiner Park have been replaced and additional lights have been installed in the pavilion in Coiner Park. Even with the new additional lights in the park we anticipate savings over \$1,000 dollars in electrical costs each year for the Coiner Park lights.

Row River Trail Meeting

On Tuesday of this week, Fleet and Facilities Manager, Russ Kaleese, Parks Employee, Chad Reel, Utilities Supervisor, Tony Kirk, and Public Works Director Jan Wellman met with BLM Recreation Planner, Liz Aleman and BLM Eugene District Engineer, Jim Condit at the site of the recently constructed Row River Trail underpass. The purpose of the meeting was to check the condition of the trail after the underpass flooded as the result of the recent heavy rainfall. The flood water has receded to a point where the trail surface and underpass approaches can be observed. The flooding is of concern because of bike rider safety and possible deterioration of the trail surface. There were also some cosmetic concerns with the surface of the underpass structure that will be relayed to Lane County Public Works by the BLM District Engineer. Trail maintenance issues were discussed by both City and BLM representatives. All in all, this relationship has been beneficial for both the City and the BLM and both entities are happy with the arrangement and want to see it continue. The BLM will soon undertake a structural analysis of the trail with the intent of facilitating structural repairs to certain sections of the trail.

Ash Avenue Water Line Installation

The Public Works Department completed the installation of a new waterline this week on Ash Avenue, between N and P Streets. The installation was comprised of 600' of 8" C900 PVC water pipe, which replaced an undersized 2" PVC pipe. Bacteria samples were taken this week and everything passed. Beginning on Monday of next week, the residential service lines will be connected to this new line and the entire length of the pipeline will be placed in-service. The completion of this project will result in better flow characteristics for customers in the area and increased fire flow protection.

Fleet Maintenance Training

Last week, Fleet and Facilities Manager, Russ Kaleese attended the 66th Annual Vehicle Maintenance Management Conference in Seattle. The Conference is the premier West Coast educational conference for the vehicle maintenance industry. Agencies from Canada, California, Washington, Idaho and Oregon were represented. This was the 19th year that Russ has attended the educational conference, where he also serves as a Trustee on the Board of Directors. This year's conference focused on new fleet technology, specifically new engine designs, fuel saving practices, hybrid technologies, shop management and diesel engine servicing. The City Shop maintains and repairs over 300 pieces of rolling stock ranging from mowers, golf carts, and ATV's to ten-yard dump trucks and backhoes. Proper parts inventory practices and vehicle maintenance recordkeeping are integral components of any successful fleet maintenance program.

South Lane Wheels

City Shop staff will be assisting South Lane Wheels with some maintenance on a couple of their buses this next week. The buses have developed leaks in the roof that let rain water into the buses. This past week the leaks are not that important, but they will eventually need the leaks fixed. The City Shop with the scissor lift and other equipment has the means to facilitate the repairs locally without having to take the buses to Eugene.

Meet the Interim Chief and the Sheriff Event

On Thursday, Interim Police Chief Scott Shepherd and LCSO Sheriff Byron Trapp spoke to the Blackberry Pie Society at the Cottage Grove Community Center. They spoke of current issues affecting law enforcement within the city limits and surrounding area. Shepherd discussed the "Stand Up for Cottage Grove" initiative and both Shepherd and Trapp took questions from the approximately 30 attendees.

ODFW Family Fishing Event

Families interested in angling can find a great fishing opportunity Saturday, April 9th at the Cottage Grove Pond in Row River Nature Park. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife plans to release approximately 2,000 rainbow trout into Cottage Grove Pond in advance of the Family Fishing Event. ODFW staff and volunteers will be on hand from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm to provide access to fishing equipment and angling instruction.

Under Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations, anglers under the age of 12 can fish for free. A juvenile license is required for anglers 12-17 years of age. Juvenile angling licenses can be purchased for \$10 from ODFW field offices and license outlets. All other anglers must have an Oregon adult fishing license. This event is for kids, so while the standard fishing regulations will apply, ODFW would like to ask adults to leave the fishing to the young anglers for a few hours.

This will be the thirteenth year for this event so, if you have children or grandchildren that would like to experience fishing, mark your calendar for this free event. Cottage Grove Pond is located in the Row River Nature Park off Row River Road east of Cottage Grove. The Cottage Grove Pond parking area is near the weigh station.

Quote of the Week

Sometimes a player's greatest challenge is coming to grips with his role on the team."
~Scottie Pippen~