

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Richard Meyers, City Manager

SUBJECT: Friday Update

DATE: May 12, 2016

Youth Advisory Council

The Cottage Grove Youth Advisory Council will be meeting on Monday, May 16th from 6:15 to 7:30 pm.

Yard of the Week

This week the Yard of the Week is located at 35 Bangle Court. The 2016 Yard of the Week program has just begun but we have received some great nominations. Keep submitting nominations.

Economic Outlook

The City Manager and Finance Director attended the Annual Economic Outlook breakfast featuring a presentation from Economist John Mitchell. The presentation covered important aspects of the federal, state and local economies to provide insight what to expect for 2016. He highlighted the slow and steady economic growth, the low unemployment rates for the country and even lower for Oregon (lowest since unemployment data collection began), 5.5 million jobs above the peak number of jobs in January, 2008 and the low interest rates and corresponding low inflation rate. This annual event was sponsored by US Bank and provides an excellent opportunity to gain insights into the local economic condition.

Fort Harrison Park Clean-up

Last Saturday, Brenda Sawyer, Shae Steele, Joey Farmer, Destiny Summerville, and Shawn Farmer assisted Cottage Grove's award winning, graffiti removal laureate, Marie Longfellow with a complete clean-up of Fort Harrison Park. Fort Harrison Park is located north of Harrison Avenue between 2nd and 3rd Streets. The group of volunteers picked-up trash and gave the park a general spring cleaning. Thanks to this group of dedicated volunteers, who can be seen in the picture.



Oregon Public Fleet Summit

This week, Shop Administrative Aide, Melissa Keenan attended the Oregon Public Fleet Summit in Redmond. The purpose of the summit was to provide fleet management training to improve fleet concepts and processes to streamline operations. Specific topics included calculating public fleet rates, fleet management information systems, effective preventive maintenance, quality assurance, and maintenance performance measures. The City maintains and operates a wide assortment of rolling stock.

Influent Auto Sampler

This week, Wastewater Treatment Plant Staff took delivery on a Teledyne-Isco Refrigerated Auto Sampler. This piece of equipment samples wastewater that flows into the plant every thirty minutes, twenty-four hours a day. DEQ requires a 24 hour composite sample of our wastewater, which is then analyzed by plant staff in the treatment plant lab. The composite sample is tested for BOD, suspended solids, phosphorus, pH, and ammonia. The automatic sampler is needed because plant staff is only on-site from 8 to 5, seven days a week. The Isco sampler replaces a 10-year old sampler that was installed when the plant was expanded in 2006. The cost of the new sampler is approximately \$6,000.00.

Tree Branch Pickup Begins May 23rd

Don't forget that the City of Cottage Grove's annual tree branch pickup will begin Monday, May 23rd. The Public Works crew will pick up branches that are placed in street parking areas during that week only. For questions regarding the Tree Branch Pickup Program, or a copy of the informational brochure which outlines the specific program guidelines, please call the Public Works Department at (541) 942-3349, stop by the Public Works office located in City Hall, or go to the City's website at www.cottagegrove.org.

Free Audio Books for Teens

The Cottage Grove Public Library is excited to promote a program that provides two free audio books per week from May 5th to August 17th. This is a great opportunity for teens to download some awesome free audio literature to enhance their summer reading fun. For complete details and to download your first free audio book, simply go to: www.audiobooksSYNC.com For more information stop by the Cottage Grove Public Library and chat with one of our awesome librarians.

Kindergarten Trip to the Library

This week, the Cottage Grove Public Library welcomed a class of kindergarten children from Bohemia Elementary School for a field trip to the library. The class was welcomed with a live performance by our adult ukulele class who sang, "You are my Sunshine" to the kids. Next, they learned a little about architecture from Pete Barrell, Community Services Director, who showed them designs for a new library that were done by a University of Oregon Architecture Class. They then had a tour of the library and story with Children's Librarian, Valarie Johns. The students had a great tour and experience at the library and were encouraged to return often with their families.

Architecture Exhibit at the Library

Please visit the Cottage Grove Public Library to see an exhibit of "visionary library" designs. During winter quarter, a class of 45 graduate students at the University Of Oregon School Of Architecture focused their design attention on the challenge of designing new libraries to meet the changing needs and roles of rural libraries.

All-America City Square Planning Project

The City of Cottage Grove, the Cottage Grove Garden Club, Sustainable Cottage Grove, EBID, and Cottage Grove Main Street are holding a planning charrette designed to improve and enhance the All-America City Square. The City of Cottage Grove has received a grant from the National Park Service and State Historic Preservation Office through the Certified Local Government Program to conduct a community planning project on All-America City Square this spring.

All-America City Square has become a cherished part of our beautiful downtown. But it is almost 10 years old. Everyone is invited to an open house at the Cottage Grove Armory on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Come prepared to share:

- What are your concerns?
- What you would like to change?
- What should stay the same?

All ideas will be used to help make the park cherished for generations to come.

The following week, on Tuesday, May 24, 2016 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Cottage Grove Armory, a certified Landscape Architect, David Dougherty from DLA Inc., will facilitate a design charrette. A charrette is an interactive planning session where citizens, designers and others collaborate on a vision for a project. It provides a forum for ideas and offers the unique advantage of giving immediate feedback to the designers. More importantly, it allows everyone who participates to help author the plan. The charrette will be a hands-on exercise where everyone will help design and sketch out the future of the park. Ideas that come out of the charrette will be used to improve and maintain the park. If you have questions about the process or want to get more involved, please contact Amanda Ferguson, City Planner, at (541)942-3340 or via email at planner@cottagegrove.org.

Quote of the Week

“Laughter is a sunbeam of the soul.”

~Thomas Mann~