

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Richard Meyers, City Manager

SUBJECT: Friday Update

DATE: September 9, 2016

Yard of the Week

This week the Yard of the Week is located at 185 Tyler. There are only 3 weeks left in the 2016 Yard of the Week season, so hurry and nominate those yards that deserve recognition.

Fire Restrictions Updated

With the recent cooler weather and rain, the fire danger has eased slightly but still remains high. Effective today, South Lane County Fire Chief, John Wooten has revised the fire restrictions to read as follows:

In accordance with ORS 478.960, I hereby proclaim the following fire restrictions are in effect until such time as it is deemed safe to remove them, or if not specifically removed in writing by the Fire Chief of SLCFR, when, and on such date and time, as LRAPA declares the legal start of open burning in Lane County:

The following restrictions apply within the City of Cottage Grove, City of Creswell, and any lands within the SLCFR District boundaries, not protected by the Western or Eastern Lane Districts of ODF.

- Smoking is prohibited while traveling, except in vehicles on improved roads, in boats on the water, and other designated locations.
- Open fires are prohibited, including campfires, charcoal fires, cooking fires and warming fires, except at locations where fire pits are present. Portable cooking stoves using liquefied or bottled fuels are allowed. Briquette use is allowed in barbeques, but is restricted to use on hard, non-flammable surfaces such as patios, driveways, gravel, or green irrigated lawns.
- The use of power saws is prohibited during extreme fire danger. Power saw use is permitted before 10:00 a.m. and after 8:00 p.m. during low, moderate, and high fire danger. Each power saw is required to have one shovel and one fire extinguisher of at least 8 ounce capacity.
- Cutting, grinding and welding of metal is prohibited during extreme fire danger. This activity is permitted before 10:00 a.m. and after 8:00 p.m. during low, moderate, and high fire danger, as long as it is conducted in a cleared area, and has a charged garden hose or 2 ½ pound or larger fire extinguisher immediately available.

- The mowing of dried, cured grass is prohibited during extreme fire danger. This activity is permitted before 10:00 a.m. and after 8:00 p.m. during low, moderate and high fire danger. The culture and harvest of agricultural crops is exempt from this requirement.
- Motor vehicles, including motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles, are only allowed on improved roads free of flammable vegetation, except for the culture and harvest of agricultural crops.
- Use of illegal fireworks is prohibited at all times, and in any location within the District. Legal firework use is permitted in areas free of dried, cured grasses, brush, or trees. Generally firework use is only permitted on asphalt, concrete, or gravel and a charged garden hose or one 2 ½ pound or larger fire extinguisher is immediately available.

Please continue to exercise caution and report any behavior or actions that violate the fire restrictions.

National Bicycle Tourism Conference

The City Manager has been awarded a scholarship from Travel Oregon to attend the National Bicycle Tourism Conference. The conference is held annually by the Bicycle Tour Network and covers the best practices and latest trends to improve bicycle tourism. The keynote speakers and sessions bring experiences and information from cycling tourism organizations from around the world.

Black Butte Mine Superfund Site Public Meeting

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is seeking comments on the proposed clean-up action at the Black Butte Mine Superfund Site which is located about 18 miles south of Cottage Grove. Comments can be submitted in writing by mail or email by no later than September 26th. Comments can even be given in person at a public meeting being held on Wednesday, September 14, 2016 from 5:30 to 8:00 pm in the Cottage Grove Community Center.

The proposed cleanup work consists of removing contaminated soil along the banks of Furnace Creek where historic mercury processing took place. This is a portion of the work expected to be needed to complete the full Superfund project and is considered an interim action. EPA determined that doing an interim cleanup on Furnace Creek will make a significant reduction in mercury loading to the Coast Fork Willamette River and the Cottage Grove Reservoir. EPA produced a document that presents assessment results, provides a basis for conducting the cleanup, and proposes several remedial alternatives. The document is called an Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis and can be found at the link in the project fact sheet. The fact sheet can be found attached to the Friday Update or at:

<https://semsub.epa.gov/work/10/100028565.pdf>.

November 8th Election – City Measures & Council Candidates

On the November 8th ballot, the City of Cottage Grove will have two measures:

Measure #20-245 - City tax on recreational marijuana retailers' sale of marijuana items

Measure #20-262 - Increase City Gas Tax to \$.06 Per Gallon

Also on the ballot will be the election of the positions of Mayor, Councilor at Large, Councilor Ward 2 and Councilor Ward 4. Candidates for these positions are:

Mayor – Jake Boone; Jeff Gowing and Mike Fleck

Councilor at Large – Kenneth Michael Roberts and Ivan DelSol

Councilor Ward 2 – Bob Ehler, Henry Lancaster, Merlyn Adams and Rodney Cimburke

Councilor Ward 4 – Amy Slay

Information on the measures and candidates can be found on the City's webpage, www.cottagegrove.org under November 8, 2016 General Election.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Buildings Repainted

This week, Willamette Valley Painting completed the repainting of all the buildings at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The buildings included the administration/lab, maintenance and chemical buildings, along with the gable ends of the press building. All surfaces were pressure washed, scraped, primed, and two coats of paint were applied. The original paint that was applied in 2006 had begun to peel and fade. Colors were matched as close as possible to the original paint colors.

New Golf Carts Delivered

On Thursday of this week, the City took delivery of six new 2017 4-stroke EFI gas powered Yamaha golf carts at Middlefield Golf Course. The current fleet of Club Car golf carts at Middlefield date from the 1990's, with the exception of five newer Club Car golf carts that were purchased in 2008. The older golf carts are showing their age and require frequent repairs and maintenance. The City plans to rotate the older carts out by replacing a few each year until the entire fleet is upgraded. The best of the older carts will be kept for use in other City applications or made available to civic groups during events. The carts that are deemed to be beyond their useful life will be declared surplus and sold at public auction.



Volunteers to Beautify Gateway Park and Sections of Row River Trail

Community volunteers 14 years and older are needed to help clean up and improve trailside conditions in Gateway Park and sections of the Row River Trail in Cottage Grove. The event will occur at Gateway Park on Saturday, October 15th from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Volunteers will assist with removing ivy and blackberries from trees and picking up trash. Education about invasive plant identification and proper removal techniques will also be provided. Coffee and pastries from local businesses will be available at the start and all volunteers will be entered into a gift card raffle. The event is sponsored by SOLVE Oregon, City of Cottage Grove Public Works, and the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council. Former Cottage Grove resident Gabriel Wihtol, a senior Nursing student and representative of the University of Portland's Presidential Advisory Committee on Sustainability, is organizing the event. Interested volunteers can register in advance at the following link: <http://solveoregon.org/get-involved/events/row-river-trail-clean>

National Preparedness Month – Week 3 – Individual Preparedness

September is National Preparedness Month with a theme of “Don't Wait. Communicate. Make Your Emergency Plan Today”. For week three the theme is Individual Preparedness. Take steps to prepare yourself and your family for emergencies.

BE INFORMED about emergencies likely in your area.

- Sign up for Alert Me at:
www.lanecounty.org/prepare<<http://www.lanecounty.org/prepare>.
- Download the FEMA app at: <http://www.fema.gov/mobile-app>, and monitor the news and weather. \

MAKE A PLAN about where to go and how you'll communicate with your family in an emergency.

BUILD A KIT or have supplies on hand that you'll need to live independently for several days. Include food, water, and medicine for your family and pets.

TAKE ACTION and help others prepare in your community.

Open House on Proposed Changes to Industrial Districts

The City of Cottage Grove Community Development Department will hold an open house on Monday, September 19th from 11:00am-1:00pm in City Council Chambers, City Hall, 400 E. Main Street. The Community Development Department is proposing to consolidate the existing land use districts, M-1 Light Industrial, and M-2 Heavy Industrial, into one land use district, M Industrial. This would make the administration of these districts the same, and mean that more uses are allowed in all of our industrial areas. No changes will be required to existing uses or developments, and many existing non-conforming uses will be made “legal” conforming uses. The intent of this code change is to make our industrial areas more flexible and responsive to community needs, while ensuring these lands are retained for industrial use. A copy of the map of Cottage Grove's industrial areas, as well as a track-changed copy of the proposed changes to Development Code Section 2.4 Industrial Lands and a draft staff report on this application, (labeled Development Code Text Amendment DCTA 2-16), is available on the City's website at www.cottagegrove.org under the Community Development Department.

For further information or comments please contact City Planner Amanda Ferguson at (541) 942-3340 or via email at: planner@cottagegrove.org.

Book Club for Adults

The Cottage Grove Public Library Book Club for Adults will begin this month. The September Book Club meeting will be held on Monday, September 19th at 6:30 pm. This month's selection is Jodi Picoult's "My Sister's Keeper". Please join us for a fun evening, even if you have not read the book yet.

Book Club for Tweens

Behind the Pages, the library's book club for middle schoolers, will be meeting on Saturday, September 17th from 2:30 to 3:30 pm. This month's selection is Spencer Quinn's "Woof". Hope to see you here.

Partner's in History Exhibit at the Library

The Cottage Grove Museum has an exhibit in the library focused on "local useful advertising through the years". Please stop by to see this interesting historical exhibit.

Anna Dewdney Memorial

Anna Dewdney, author of the "Llama Llama" series, died of brain cancer September 3rd at the age of 50 after a fifteen month long battle. She was an outspoken advocate of children's literacy. Her publisher said that in lieu of a funeral service, she had asked that people read a book to a child. There will be a small display in memory of her in the library this week.

Safe Driving Class

There will be an AARP Safe Driving Class at the Community Center in the Shepherd Room on Friday, September 23rd. To learn more about the class please contact the instructor Bryan Ducker at (541) 942-7260.

Quote of the Week

“When we read books with children, we share other worlds, and even more importantly, we share ourselves.”

~Anna Dewdney~