

From the mayor’s desk: by Meadow Martell



One of the hardest jobs I have as a mayor is to tell folks with sincere reasons, why an exception to an ordinance cannot be made just for them. It really started

me thinking about why cities originally developed and what role they play in our civilization. The advent of agriculture is what made life as we know it possible. For the first time people could settle in one place and build towns and cities. We have evolved a long way since then. A city plays an important role in economic development by localizing resources and achieving economy of scale. A city provides infrastructure, streets, buildings, power, and water for people who live and work close together. A city has the power to regulate matters of local concern, such as animal control, local law enforcement, local parks, and local roads.

Ordinances regulate these matters. An ordinance is a local law that forbids or restricts some type of activity. Oregon is a Home Rule state. That means the citizens, through locally elected government manage their own affairs with minimal interference from the State. Ordinances are important because they act as a guideline to what is accepted in society. Without local laws there would be chaos and conflicts and it would be survival of the fittest. Ordinances provide a sense of predictability and consistency and promote physical and emotional safety. They ensure our rights as citizens against abuses by other people,

organizations and government We have laws to help provide for our general safety like speed limits and traffic laws. City ordinances regulate everything from speed limits, traffic laws, sign sizes, how we want our neighborhoods to look, and our government structure and spending. A zoning ordinance in our community may say how you can use your land and what you can build on it. Some ordinances carry fines if you violate them. Together, a local government’s ordinances make up its “municipal code.” You can access Cave Junction’s city code on the city website at cavejunctionoregon.us.

Supporting a local ordinance means doing things like testifying at council meetings, contacting council members to express support for the ordinance, and informing others about the ordinance. Even in big cities, very few people tend to get involved in local government. This means a small group of people are changing laws and policies. Get involved in city government. Know who your local elected officials are. Attend Cave Junction council meetings that happen on the second Monday of the month. Read the *Illinois Valley News*. Meetings are regularly posted, and the monthly council meeting are reported.

Letters to the editor

Illinois Valley News welcomes letters to the editor. Please e-mail them to laura@illinois-valley-news.com

POLICY ON LETTERS:
‘Illinois Valley News’ encourages letters to the editor provided they are legible and not libelous or scurrilous. All letters must be signed, including name, address and telephone number. The latter need not be published, but will be used to verify authenticity. The “News” reserves the right to edit letters. Letters are used at the discretion of the publisher.

Reader happy with kindness

I am new to Cave Junction for 6 months now and so far I’m liking it a lot, for several reasons. Today my

favorite reason was confirmed once again.

I was in a shop getting some copies made. I suddenly realized I didn’t have the dollar that it cost on me at the moment. An another customer named Ishsta heard my dilemma playing out between myself and the young clerk and insisted on paying my bill. She wouldn’t take no for an answer, saying she has lived in CJ all her life and perhaps that I could do the same for some else sometime. A short time later I ran into Ishsta again at the Post Office, this time I had cash on me so I pulled out my wallet to give her the dollar she gave me earlier and again she refused to take it! Now I know a dollar is not a lot in today’s economy but I feel the experience was

priceless! I think I’ve found a great place to live if Ishsta is any example of the folks of Cave Junction!

L. Gregory Cave Junction

Liar in Cheif

There are a couple of reasons lies are so evil. The more often one hears them, the more they are believed to be true. Next, the hearer has less ability to discern that they are lies and this decreases one’s ability to recognize and believe truths.

Trump was and is the greatest liar in the history of the world. He lost the election and is a loser no matter who tells you different or how often. Get over it and move on. Let’s

make the USA greater!
Chris Matthews, RN Cave Junction

Reader upset with inaction

Mayor Martell, Commissioner Fowler – I am really mad! This Valley is going to s*** and I see very little support from the CJ mayor & the GP commissioners. I find this astounding since y’all live here too and can plainly see what’s happening – how come you’re not as mad as I am? There are so many more things that you can do to help solve this problem, but all I see is inaction – you need to do your

jobs. This issue is way more important than bus stop waiting stations, people who don’t like smart meters, downtown beautification projects, walking paths, etc. This is an emergency and y’all are silent – this should be your #1 priority. Don’t tell us that you’ll “look into the problem and get back to us later” – action is required right NOW!!! As a minimum, here’s what needs to be done immediately –

1. Municipalities need to verify that water trucks, driving from the city spigot, are registered, insured & track their deliveries - those that aren’t don’t get a water spigot credit card. In addition, our local Sheriffs should be making randomly timed visits to city water spigots and impounding

unregistered & unlicensed water trucks which are held and not released the next day.

2. As Reps Morgan, Marsh & Sen Golden told Gov Brown, this is an emergency – get on board. I want to see headlines of what you’re doing to help us and them combat this menace.

There’s so much more, but this would be a good start.

As Mr. Strange said at the recent Town Hall, there will be vigilante activity before long as this situation is totally out of control.

Take this seriously – inaction is unacceptable.
Brad Vincent O’Brien

OBITS ON A-3

Save the date

Aug. 27

Friday, August 27 to Sunday 29 • The **Southern Oregon Guild of Artists & Artisans will be hosting a 3 session online weekend workshop on ZOOM**, Exploring the Unconscious Source of Creativity! IV local newcomer Sophie Traub and her long-time collaborator Lolo Haha, will be offering a playful, healing, and exploratory experience to help you re-discover your deepest sources of creative energy and motivation. Though the workshop will draw on methods from depth psychology and performance techniques, you don’t need to be a performer, psychologist, or established artist to participate. This workshop is for artists of any medium, people who feel their creativity is dormant, those who want to try something new, who want to connect meaningfully with others, people seeking inspiration, people wanting to play and have fun, and performers interested in strengthening their performance tools. Class Fees are \$60-\$100, and only \$50 for IV residents! Work trade and scholarship options are available. For more information and to register visit www.southernorenguild.org or call 541-659-3858.

Sept. 4, 5 & 6

Lions Club Labor Day Festival Saturday, Sept. 4 - Monday, Sept. 6. Monday, Sept. 6 is the Labor Day Parade at 10 a.m. See applications for vendors and the parade in this newspaper issue.

Sept. 9

Campfire with the Caves: Winter Adaptations of Flora & Fauna, 6 – 7:30 p.m., free and family friendly, Join NPS Ranger Pam Conner at Siskiyou Field Institute, 1241 Illinois River Rd, Selma, to learn how life is preparing right now, and how these plans can set the stage for the renewal of spring.

Sept. 19

Historic Laurel Cemetery board meeting at the the Lions Club building Sunday, Sept. 19 at 3 p.m.

Sept. 25

Historic Laurel Cemetery Clean up Day is Saturday, Sept. 25 starts at 8 a.m. but can come a little later with a rake that fits your hand and gloves. There will be a Chicken BBQ

Oct. 8

***UPCYCLE ART:** Wondering what to do with all that junk? Instead of taking it to the landfill, consider making something special for the 6th Annual Upcycle Art and Furniture Contest! Prizes range from \$50 to \$500 (with categories for kids and adults) and will take place at 24100 Redwood Highway at the Farmers’ Market, October 8th. New this year, come join the trash fashion show! Furniture must be sturdy and clothing wearable. Judging is on creativity and not fine craftsmanship, so think outside the box and make something cool!

Oct. 10

***** Epic Fun Endurance Run**, Sunday, Oct. 10. Community gathering at the Holland Store! At 10 a.m., the Epic Fun Endurance Run, followed by live music headlined by The Brothers Reed. Start training now: the 11-mile run will loop through the woodlands above the Holland Store, and gains almost 1,000 feet of elevation over the first half of the race. Cash prizes! Winners in three age divisions plus a raffle for all finishers! Free T-shirts for participants! Advance registration and more information: www.sasquatchwoodspeople.org. Proceeds go to the Sasquatch Woods People, helping to steward the public woodlands of the Holland area.

Ongoing Ongoing / Through August 31
****Deadline extended**** Due to low submissions, Cobra Lily: a review of southwest oregon literature & art is again seeking work for the 7th annual issue. Cobra Lily is a print publication celebrating our region. Send fiction, poetry, memoir, essays, regional history, photography, paintings, illustration, and more (don’t feel the need to limit yourself to these genre categories). Deadline is August 31. Email cobralilyreview@gmail.com or visit leftforkbooks.com/cobralily for more information (but if we do not get enough submissions, we will not publish Cobra Lily this year and will reconsider whether we should solicit submissions next year). *Note:* Past issues are available a the Southern Oregon Guild gallery in Kerby.

**FOOD PANTRY Tuesdays 10 a.m.

- **1 p.m.** Cave Junction Adventist/Community Services Food Distribution, 265 S. Old Stage Rd. Volunteers are needed to help stock, date check, sort food, pack boxes and handout food boxes, etc. to volunteer please email cavejunctionacs@gmail.com. **Contributions** can be made out to the CJ Seventh-day Adventist Church and identify that they are in support of the Community Service by writing “CJACS” in the memo section of your check. Mail to: Cave Junction Seventh-day Adventist Church PO Box 330, Cave Junction, OR 97523

**** The Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance after-hours crisis line** can be reached at 541-415-9367. The new local crisis line will be answered any hours the Safe House is closed. The line will be answered by an advocate who will be able to respond locally, also recognizing the barriers that may come up due to our rural location. For more information contact the Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance 541-592-2515.

**** HIV Alliance** offers services in Cave Junction every Monday from noon – 3 p.m. at Immanuel United Methodist Church (across from ShopSmart). Services include: Free and confidential HIV and Hep C testing. Needle Exchange and drop box (all syringes welcome), and overdose response and Naloxone training.

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