

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Volunteers working toward community betterment

Levi-Strauss volunteers transform Community Sharing garden

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

They spent much of a beautiful spring day in the soil, and the results surpassed the expectations of many.

Early Thursday morning, volunteers with the Levi-Strauss company's Community Involvement Team gathered at Cottage Grove Community Sharing, and the transformation they brought to the garden there was palpable within a few hours. Employees with the company's Eugene office joined other community

volunteers to weed and plant a garden in sore need of care, according to Community Sharing Executive Director Mike Fleck. "My son and I typically do it every year, but we were way

behind," Fleck said. "We were overgrown, and this is just unbelievable."

Community Sharing Board President Mary McNamara said 23 volunteers weeded, ran rototillers, mowed the lawn and operated weed-eaters Thursday morning, and she added her thanks to those who helped out. Community Sharing also received cash donations based on volunteer involvement. The organization works to fulfill the basic needs of South Lane County.

"Not only did volunteers work, but for the first 10 volunteers that arrived, we received \$1000. When the next 10 volunteers arrived, we received an additional \$1000," McNamara said.



photo by Jon Stinnett

About 20 Levi-Strauss employees and community volunteers weeded and planted the Community Sharing garden last week.

Rapid Response Team aims to tackle graffiti

The Chamber Tourism Committee and the City of Cottage Grove are teaming up in attempts to quickly attack and remove graffiti around town. Marie Longfellow is the "GRR Team" captain, with Lorraine Eriksen as her Number One. They cruise around town scouting graffiti and notifying Cottage Grove Police to handle the legal documentation.

City Planner Amanda Ferguson notifies victimized property owners and offers the GRR Team's assistance with removal. City Public Works staff provides the team with specialized training and basic removal materials.

"We need many more volunteers," Team Captain Marie Longfellow said. "This is an ideal opportunity for local groups and organizations to pitch in and demonstrate pride in our community."

Plans are underway to provide "growly" T-shirts for the team and to schedule work parties. Priority #1: The Row River Trail prior to the busy summer season.

Those interested in volunteering can call Longfellow at 541-942-5658 or email her at longfellow.marie@gmail.com.



photo by Cindy Weeldreyer

Graffiti Rapid Response Team members Marie Longfellow and Lorraine Eriksen, with the assistance of Jill Vaverka, remove graffiti from a portable toilet next to the Cottage Grove Armory last Thursday.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

OSU Day of Service

On Saturday, May 16 from 9 a.m. to noon, organizers are seeking volunteers to take part in the OSU Community Day of Service at Harrison Elementary School, a day where OSU alumni and friends across the U.S. give back to their communities through service projects.

The Harrison Parent Club is excited to be organizing this service site in Cottage Grove. Those interested are asked to register on-line at osualum.com/service so that lunch after the work party and a free t-shirt can be distributed while supplies last.

All ages are welcome to help, though children under age 12 need to bring an adult work partner. The event is sponsored by OSU Alumni Association and Harrison Elementary Parent (and Grandparent) Club. Volunteers are asked to bring wheelbarrows, shovels, rakes and gloves, if possible.

Contact Melissa Fery, 541-513-3208 with questions.

Cemetery clean-up

The Cottage Grove Historical Society would appreciate any volunteer help for the clean-up day at the historic McFarland

Cemetery on May 25 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Anyone willing to help is asked to bring gloves, clippers, etc., but some gardening tools will be available. For more information call 541-942-5022. The cemetery is located off of North River Road at the corner of Holly Ave. and Kalapuya St.

Need housing?

Habitat for Humanity in Cottage Grove is in the process of selecting a family or person who qualifies for help in obtaining a house. A selection orientation and application meeting will be held Saturday, May 16 at 2 p.m. in the Cottage Grove

Community Center, 700 E. Gibbs. Community members are asked to attend to see how they can become a partner with Habitat for Humanity. For more information, call 541-767-0358 or email info@habitatcg.org

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