

# COUNCIL

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How the City Council selects an individual for appointment and the timeline for that process is, however, not detailed in

within the Charter and is left to the Council to decide. The Council could even choose not to fill the vacancy, but Meyers said that course of action would be inappropriate.

In other Council news: Meyers reminded the Council that Bohemia Mining Days begins this week, and the Eugene Symphony will visit the Bohemia Park Amphitheater on

Monday. The park will open at 5 p.m., and the concert will start at 7 p.m. Concert goers could also see the unveiling of a 12' by 18' American flag which would be hoisted up a new 60' pole by a

color guard while the symphony plays the national anthem. The flag and pole were paid for by Steve Stewart.

Meyers noted that 13 reserved tables located in front of the

stage have already been sold at \$500 each. These funds will help support future concerts.

# QUAKES

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of some 34500 people. So is Oregon's critical energy-infrastructure hub, a six-mile stretch of Portland through which flows 90 percent of the state's liquid fuel and which houses everything from electrical substations to natural-gas terminals. Together, the sloshing, sliding, and shaking will trigger fires, flooding, pipe failures, dam breaches and hazardous-material spills. Any one of these second-order disasters could swamp the original earthquake in terms of cost, damage, or casualties—and one of them definitely will."

A large-scale tsunami can also be expected after a major quake on the Cascadia Subduction Zone, and it could be years

**"The cities and counties are playing catch-up with regard to preparedness, and people are, too."**

— DOGAMI spokesperson Ali Ryan

before the Pacific Northwest recovers. By then, many people will likely have moved elsewhere and the economy will be devastated.

So what's been done so far to prepare for this scenario? Not a

whole lot, according to the article and to Ryan, who explained that the existence of the Cascadia Subduction Zone itself was unknown until fairly recently.

"We've got a lot of work to do to get ready," she said. "It's a fairly recent revelation that the Cascadia zone could produce a magnitude 8.0 or 9.0 earthquake. It's only been considered in city planning fairly recently, and it's only been since the mid-90s that building codes have considered the possibility. Anything built before then was not built to withstand such an earthquake."

A large quake could bring the facades off buildings in downtown Cottage Grove and cause a lot more damage, according

to Community Development Director Howard Schesser, who also coordinates the City's emergency response.

"It depends on the type of quake, how long and where it is," he said. "Many of those buildings weren't built to current earthquake standards."

Schesser said the City is exploring options to shore up buildings like the Armory, adding that many other structures downtown and buildings like Harrison School are prone to damage. Areas near hillsides are also vulnerable to landslides that may result from a large quake, and the City has concerns about aging infrastructure such as water lines.

Schesser said the state of Or-

egon is putting in a "lot of effort" in an attempt to prepare for a large earthquake and that the City is taking its lead from the state, as it doesn't have the resources to anticipate such a disaster on its own.

"You can't pre-stage a scenario for this," he said. "With an earthquake, you don't know when it will happen, so you prepare as much as you can."

For the City, this has meant efforts to update its emergency management plan, and Schesser said a new draft of that plan should be available by August. Events will be held in August and September to get the word out about emergency preparedness, he said.

Ryan said that preparedness

in the home on an individual or family level can be just as important.

"The cities and counties are playing catch-up with regard to preparedness, and people are, too," she said. "We tell people that it's wise to prepare to be without many of the resources we often take for granted like running water, electricity and grocery stores for at least two weeks. When we feel an earthquake like the most recent one, we can take it as an action item and get prepared, make a plan and start getting ready."

Ryan recommended oregon-geology.org, tsunami.org and materials prepared by the Red Cross as excellent resources for emergency preparedness.

# WILD

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with them. The Rybergs say their biggest concern, though, is one of safety, as they've witnessed young adults and even children swimming and climbing on rocks near dangerous rapids.

"The biggest reason we chase people off is that we're liable for what happens here, and we don't want anybody slipping and hitting their head on the rocks or anything like that," Steve Ry-

berg said. "People think the river is public. If you're in a boat or a kayak, you can navigate the river, and you're allowed access to the riverbank if something happens and you need help. But you're not supposed to be swimming on private property without permission. We're tired of being taken advantage of and cleaning up after others. It's not safe to even walk around out here anymore, and we don't know what to do."

What many residents have

done so far, and what the Rybergs say they've been forced to do, is barricade themselves behind gates. They say calls to the Lane County Sheriff's Office don't often have the desired effect.

"We've been told before to expect at least a two to three-hour wait time," Cindy Ryberg said. "There was supposed to be a levy to increase rural patrols. We're tired of hearing that they don't have the money, and in the meantime, we've had to take

care of ourselves."

Sgt. Carrie Carver, public information officer for the Lane County Sheriff's Office, said that while help may not be immediately available upriver due to staffing levels and other incidents, the Sheriff's Office recommends calling its dispatchers to report any incidents of trespassing, etc.

"Calling to report it creates a case number and puts it on our radar," Carver said. "When five or six calls come in from a

certain area, it ratchets up the response and creates a record. If we start to notice a problem area, we can make sure it gets attention. We want to know about any suspected criminal activity, and we don't want people to be shy about calling in."

Carver said dispatchers know where deputies are at any time and, while deputies aren't always close by, sometimes they are.

"Dispatch will prioritize calls based on who's in the area, and

sometimes you'll get lucky and there might be a deputy five minutes away," she said.

It's also important to let people know that they are on private property, Carver said.

"Once you tell somebody to leave, it's considered trespassing," she said. "Give us a call when that happens, because that's an in-progress call, which is different than calling and saying that somebody was out here last week."

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