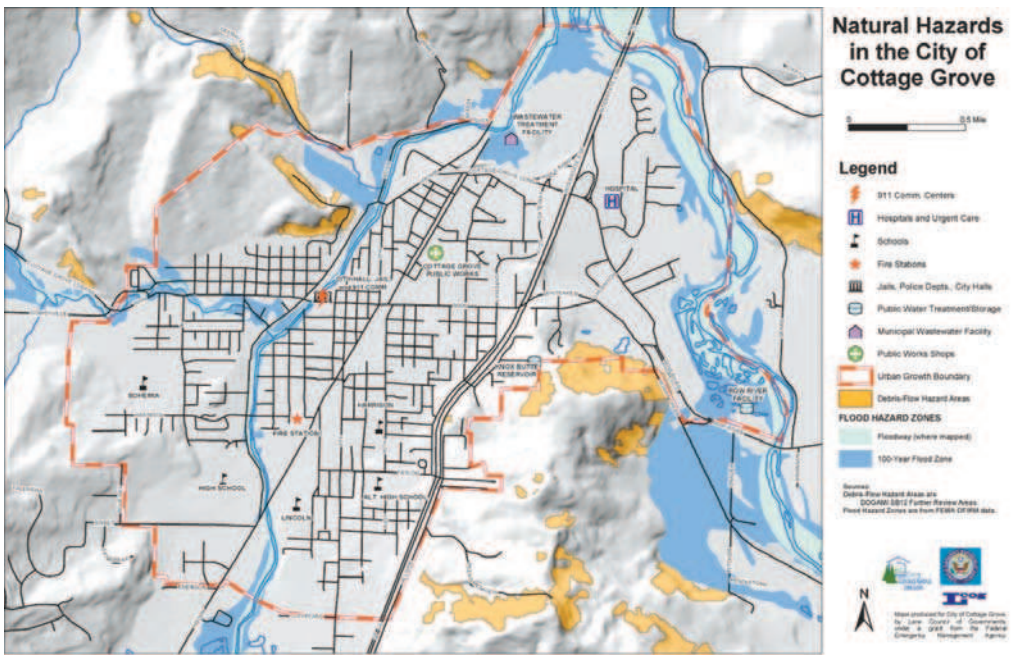


In this map, dark areas without outlines denote portions of the City of Cottage Grove's 100-year floodplain. Those interested in seeing if their property is located in the floodplain can contact the City's Community Development Department.



courtesy graphic

## City updating floodplain development code, seeking public comments

BY JON STINNETT  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Cottage Grove's Community Development Department wants to know what the public thinks of efforts to update its code with regard to development within the designated 100-year floodplain.

City Planner Amanda Ferguson said the department sent about 400 letters to those residing or owning properties within 200 feet of the Row and Coast Fork of the Willamette River within Cottage Grove's City Limits, including to those living near Silk and Bennett Creeks, regarding the new draft of the City's development code.

Ferguson wrote in a recent press release that the City is undertaking this code revision to bring the current code up to date with new federal laws, case law and executive orders on floodplain development, adding that the new code also reflects changes in nation-wide flood insurance requirements. Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy have helped illustrate the need for new federal laws regarding floodplain development.

Ferguson said the primary purposes of the code are to protect human life and health, minimize damages to public facilities and utilities, help maintain a stable tax base by provid-

ing for sound use and development of flood prone areas, minimize the need for rescue and emergency services and minimize prolonged disruptions to the community during times of flood.

Despite the number of notices sent, Ferguson said that only about 80 properties in Cottage Grove are located within the floodplain. Much of the floodplain is located either outside the City Limits, she said, or in the wetland areas around the Row River, 80 percent of which are owned by the City of Cottage Grove itself.

"That City ownership was intentional," she said. "There was a lot of land bought in the Eighties along the Coast Fork and the Row to stop development in those hazardous areas."

With regard to the Coast Fork, Ferguson said the floodplain can be equated to the riverbank itself in many areas, since the river in town was channeled out to serve as a log flume by lumber companies some years ago.

Ferguson said that many differences exist between the very definition of development with regard to the 100-year floodplain, which has only reportedly been reached by high water once in recent history, in flooding that occurred here in 1964. One proposed change in the code concerns

the City's recommendation that no development occur in the "floodway," a much more narrow stretch of the riparian areas around local rivers. Currently, such development is allowed if the property owner can demonstrate that the development has no negative downstream impact.

"Important changes include: reorganization of priorities; new definition of 'development'; clarification of permit process and substantial damage/substantial improvement requirements; prohibition against development in the regulatory Floodway; increased freeboard standard; and added protections for essential facilities."

Ferguson said the City hopes to adopt the new code in the summer of 2016. In the meantime, the City is sponsoring an open house on Tuesday, Feb. 2 from 4-6 p.m. at City Hall to answer questions about the proposed changes. Related comments are due to the City by Friday, Feb. 19.

Those interested in seeing if their property is impacted by changes in the proposed development code can contact the Community Development Department 541-942-3340 or visit City Hall to review current floodplain maps.

## Chamber to honor local citizens, businesses at annual banquet

BY JON STINNETT  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce will honor outstanding local citizens and businesses at its annual banquet this weekend.

The banquet, scheduled to take place Saturday beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Emerald Valley Golf Club and Resort in Creswell, will honor the Teacher of the Year and Classified Employee of the Year award recipients from South Lane School District, in addition to Cottage Grove's Junior First Citizen, First Citizen, Distinguished Service Award recipient and Business of the Year Award.

Chamber Executive Director Travis Palmer told the Sentinel Monday that some of the award winners had already been announced. This year's Distinguished Service Award winner, selected annually by representatives from area service clubs, is Joe Raade. Raade volunteers with the Bohemia Sunrisers Kiwanis group and has recently served on the South Lane School Board.

Just before winter break, South Lane School District honored its classified employee and teachers of the year for 2015. Bohemia Elementary third-grade teacher Debbie Taie and A Primary Connection founder Peggy Lintula were announced as co-Teachers of the Year, and Diana Teixeira, an educational assistant at Cottage Grove High School who has been working in the school district for 11 years, was named Classified Employee of the Year.

According to SLSD's "What's Right" newsletter, Taie has been teaching at Bohemia for 29 years.

"Debbie is described by her peers as someone who doesn't give up on any students, has a level of patience and understanding that allows for her students to flourish and is a leader in the school who is nurturing to students and staff. She is positive, warm, and is always there for staff to listen and share," the newsletter said.

Meanwhile, Lintula has been working in South Lane School District for 35 years and founded A Primary Connection 25 years ago.

"Peggy demonstrates respect for everyone, and teaches that level of respect to everyone both professionally and personally. She is relentless in her advocacy



courtesy photo

**South Lane Superintendent Krista Parent with co-Teacher of the Year Peggy Lintula.**

for families and children," said the newsletter.

Teixeira assists students during classroom instruction, schedules the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meetings for the high school and does paperwork for the Special Education Department.

"Diana is calm and patient with students and staff, is highly organized and a great communicator," said the newsletter. "She will regularly stay after class or school to assist students with their schoolwork."

Scholarships for Cottage Grove's Junior First Citizen award were presented to winner Eve Cornelius in the amount of \$1000 and to runner-up Kale'a Galbreath in the amount of \$750. Palmer said there were 13 applicants for the scholarships.

Nominees for the First Citizen award were Darby Valley, George Devine and Paul Tocco. Palmer explained that the winners were chosen from the results of a "detailed nomination sheet," adding that voting in this case was extremely close.

"Both the First Citizen and Business of the Year awards were too close to call until the last few votes," he said. "And of course, everybody is deserving."

Carousel House Bed and Breakfast and Catering was nominated for Business of the Year, as were South Lane Wheels and Cascade Home Center.



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