

Cottage Grove Retrospective

A look back at a Sentinel story from 30 years ago

April 2, 1986

Building spurred by optimism and interest rates

While Cottage Grove may not be destined to become a sprawling suburb in the style of Southern California communities, new housing construction is beginning to make a modest comeback here.

Everyone questioned about the construction revival explained it with three words: lower interest rates.

"It's really a key factor," confirmed Al Monce, president of The Cottage Grove Bank. "People are becoming a little more enthusiastic to build... and there's an air of optimism that (interest rates) will stay down."

Added local realtor John Reaksecker: "It's really a help to get the interest rates down." Reaksecker has seen tangible results of the lowering rates, which have dropped to near the 10 percent level.

His firm, Century 21-Nugget Realty, has been involved in the recent sale of new homes in a small subdivision on Jason Lee Avenue near Bohemia Elementary School.

The houses are being constructed under the supervision of builder Bob Butler, owner of Future B Homes, who is also a real estate agent out of the Nugget office.

Two of the homes are nearly complete, with one already occu-

pied. Another is in the middle stages of construction, while a fourth start was initiated last week. The four houses are all in the \$55,000 to \$65,000 range.

Two more housing starts in the same area are planned for this summer, added Reaksecker, who is confident of the area's ability to attract home buyers.

"We're betting on the future," he explained. "We think Cottage Grove can be an attractive suburb of the Eugene-Springfield metropolitan area."

The interest rates would seem to have a direct effect on that prediction, particularly for a young couple or other potential homeowners with moderate incomes. According to Butler, the monthly bill for someone with a \$50,000 loan on a 30-year fixed mortgage is now about \$150 less than when interest rates were closer to 13 percent last year.

Butler and builder Jack Brandon, both of Eugene, are the only contractors who have developed any sustained construction activity in the Cottage Grove area.

While the falling interest rates and the heightened public interest pleases Butler, he remains skeptical of the future. "I'm not going to get all that excited," he said. "I



Construction workers Bruce Bergby and Terry Hughes check foundation level at housing start on Jason Lee Avenue.

don't think anything is going to change very much until the contract is settled.

Butler was referring to the contract between International Woodworkers of America mill employees and major employers such as Weyerhaeuser Co. and Bohemia Inc.

The contract, which affects workers and timber firms throughout the Northwest, expires June 1. To this point, neither IWA union officials or company representatives have shown signs of compromise, although negotiations are

expected.

Butler noted that one woman who had shown interest in one of the new homes hedged on buying mainly because of the uncertainty surrounding the wage issue.

"She is indicative of the concerns that many people have here," he explained.

Monce echoed Butler's comments.

"That's the biggest deterrent to the major decision-making," he said.

POLICE BLOTTER

Cottage Grove Police Department 24-Hour Anonymous Tip Line: 767-0504

March 30

Traffic Stop, Ash St.

A vehicle was pulled over at the location, and the driver gave consent for officers to search his vehicle. Upon searching, officers found a bag containing scales, baggies and a loaded syringe. Marshall Baskette was arrested for possession of meth, delivery of meth, manual delivery of a controlled substance, and Dustin Demarchi was arrested for paraphernalia.

March 31

Burglary Alarm, Madison Ave.

An alarm of a house at the location went off and the alarm company contacted the police. The police arrived at the location to discover no one, but multiple turkeys were located inside the perimeter again.

April 1

Assault, HWY 99

A caller sounded hysterical over the phone, advising police that she woke up and found that she was drenched in gasoline. She has jumped in the shower but the gasoline is also in her eyes. Medics were dispatched and the neighboring residents were noti-

fied.

Unauthorized use of Vehicle, Riverwalk Pl.

A complainant at the police department advised that subjects stole a safe and a motorcycle out of his garage. The case was taken for information at the time. After further investigation the vehicle was entered as stolen. The bike is black and teal in color with black leather saddle bags and two bees' eyes on the front and a naked lady sticker on the front of the fender.

Warrant Service, Main St.

A caller advised of a subject lying partially on the sidewalk at the location, possibly intoxicated. Of-

ficers came out to the subject and confirmed he was intoxicated. The subject was transported to the police department for processing and was cleared in lieu of custody due to medical conditions. The subject was dropped off at Taco Bell.

April 2

Criminal Mischief, Kennedy Alt. School

A complainant saw two subjects pushing large rocks that line the driveway of the school out onto the street, then the subjects left on bikes. The rocks were located and rolled back into place.

BINGO COUPON

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Information 942-3554

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CG

6-day weather forecast

THURSDAY April 7

50° | 83°



Sunny

FRIDAY April 8

48° | 72°



Partly Cloudy

SATURDAY April 9

44° | 64°



Mostly Cloudy

SUNDAY April 10

44° | 62°



Partly Cloudy

MONDAY April 11

45° | 63°



Partly Cloudy

TUESDAY April 12

43° | 62°



Partly Cloudy

Lottery says don't be fooled by scams

For years, scammers have been preying on people by sharing unbelievable news of winning a lottery prize worth millions. And for a few hundred dollars and some personal or banking information, the prize could be yours.

"The Oregon Lottery was recently notified by a player stating that someone from the Oregon Lottery called to inform her she had won \$75 million and a Mercedes Benz," said Lottery spokesman Chuck Baumann. "The caller told her that all she needed to do to receive her prize was provide personal information to the caller. Luckily the player recognized the caller was asking for an unusual level of personal information and ended the call. Scammers often ask for identifying personal or financial information, which you should not share if you do not know who is calling."

If a person does not have a ticket for the game in question, there is no way for them to win a prize from that game. "A good test to use if you get news like that," added Baumann,

"is to remember, if it seems too good to be true, it probably is."

When the Lottery notified the Oregon Department of Justice Financial Fraud/Consumer Protection Section of the call, the Consumer Protection staff was not aware of scammers using the Oregon Lottery's name. Most recently, they noted, scammers have been using the name of the Publisher's Clearing House.

To protect themselves from being scammed, the Department of Justice suggests and encourages people to not answer phone calls unless they can recognize the number of the caller. By letting the incoming call go to their phone's voice mail, the call can be reviewed and deleted if it is a scam.

Oregon Department of Justice online complaint form:
https://justice.oregon.gov/forms/consumer_complaint.asp

The Oregon Attorney General's Consumer Hotline: 1-877-877-9392



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CITY BEAT

From the
City's Friday
Update

Northwest Regional City/County Manager Conference

City Manager Richard Meyers attended the annual Spring NW City Managers Conference in Stevenson, Wash. Local government managers from Oregon, Washington, Alaska and even Poland attended the conference, which covered topics that included marijuana legislation impacts, innovation in local government, emergency response and preparation for communities, homelessness and ethics. Representatives from the International City/County Management Association attended from Washington D.C. and reviewed the Code of Ethics. Additionally, the Spring Conference also hosts the Annual Oregon/Washington Managers Volleyball match that has a legacy and fame that legend has it actually began the use of the phrase, "March Madness."

Outdoor season has begun

The restrooms at All-America City Square were opened this week for the summer, and the City said it will no longer be using the automatic locks on the doors at Coiner Park or All-America City Square. They say the restrooms will be closed each night when our contracted cleaning company, Full Circle, conducts daily cleaning. They hope this eliminates people from circumventing the automatic locks and spending the night in the restrooms. In the past the overnight restroom guests would vandalize and trash the restroom, making it unusable by others.

Park lights

City staff has been wrestling with the problem of providing more light in Coiner Park. It said the current electrical load in Coiner Park was over-loaded and that adding even one additional light was not possible without either a major electrical supply upgrade or the removal of existing lights or equipment. Recently several of the lights in the park needed to be repaired and have the ballasts replaced. Staff explored the option of rather than replacing the burned out lights or ballasts to retrofit a new LED light into the existing lights and reduce the load and increase their ability to install additional lights. After consulting with their contract electrician it was determined that the lights could be retrofitted for a similar cost, and it would reduce the electrical load significantly to allow for additional new LED lights.

One old light in the park uses nearly six times the electricity that one comparable LED light would use. Many of the lights in Coiner Park have been replaced and additional lights have been installed in the pavilion in Coiner Park. Even with the new additional lights in the park, The City said it anticipates saving over \$1,000 dollars in electrical costs each year for the Coiner Park lights.

Row River Trail Meeting

On Tuesday of this week, Fleet and Facilities Manager Russ Kaleese, Parks Employee Chad Reel, Utilities Supervisor Tony Kirk and Public Works Director Jan Wellman met with BLM Recreation Planner Liz Aleman and BLM Eugene District Engineer Jim Condit at the site of the recently constructed Row River Trail underpass to check the condition of the trail after the underpass flooded as the result of the recent heavy rainfall. The flood water has receded to a point where the trail surface and underpass approaches can be observed. The flooding is of concern because of bike rider safety and possible deterioration of the trail surface. (Heavy rains that first began in December of 2015 had flooded the underpass, and the BLM indicated that it had anticipated such flooding.)

Janet Mayer, Design Engineer with Lane County Public Works, said it "would've been incredibly expensive" to design the underpass in a way that it could be drained for all flood events, so the County and BLM chose not to.

"We made the judgment call to allow the underpass to flood in heavy rains since we already had a usable at-grade crossing," she said.)

There were also some cosmetic concerns with the surface of the underpass structure that will be relayed to Lane County Public Works by the BLM District Engineer. Trail maintenance issues were discussed by both City and BLM representatives.

The City said that, all in all, this relationship has been beneficial for both the City and the BLM and both entities are happy with the arrangement and want to see it continue.



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