

CANDIDATES

Continued from page 10A

helped residents and business owners come to a greater consensus with the downtown Economic and Business Improvement District on the design and construction of All-America City Square. He served on the Cottage Grove Budget Committee in 2010 and served as board president of Another Way Enterprises, a nonprofit supporting many local projects and community organizations.

Ivan believes government often fails to legitimately represent citizens and effectively meet their needs. He is running for City Council with a commitment to total transparency, greater input from the public and unwavering support for the health, prosperity and economic strength of our community, our Cottage Grove. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/ivansdelsol.

Ward II candidates

Merlyn Adams
written response

Merlyn Adams, 35, is a candidate for Ward 2 on the Cottage Grove City Council. She has graduated with a JD from the University of Oregon School of Law. Prior to that, she received a Masters Degree in political science and a Bachelor's degree in philosophy from California



State University in Chico. The subject of her Master's thesis was "Cultural Trauma and the Rise of Terrorism in Post-Colonial Societies".

Adams is self-employed as an antique picker, a lifetime hobby that has evolved into a major source of income. She works with local stores Roger's Fine Antiques and Dierdre Holder's Timeless Treasures, among others.

She moved to Cottage Grove eight years ago and has recently purchased and is restoring a 1922 Victorian house that once belonged to City Councilor Betty Horvath, one of the few women who has served on the City Council here.

She serves on the Board of Directors for The Healing Matrix and Cottage Grove Gleaners.

She loves Cottage Grove and greatly appreciates the warm and friendly atmosphere. She enjoys writing grants and would like to help Cottage Grove work to improve our roads and sidewalks; Adams is also very interested in improvements for all of our municipal parks.

Rodney Cimburke
Interview response

Cimburke has lived in Cottage Grove with his family for 10 years, or as he put it, "long enough not to be considered an outsider" to local affairs.

"I just want to get involved and to help



people realize that they can do a lot to change things, that they can affect local governance," he said of his candidacy.

Cimburke said he supports the upcoming ballot measure to raise Cottage Grove's gas tax because one of the biggest complaints about living here is the deterioration of local streets. He also supports the prospective three percent tax on recreational marijuana purchases, and he said he's hoping to work with Councilor Slay and others to start a Neighborhood Watch type group that could help curb the recent spate of property crimes here. "People are getting angry, and they may feel like they don't have a lot of power in the community," he said. "I think a legitimate Neighborhood Watch is a good place to start."

Cimburke records meeting minutes on behalf of the Lane Council of Governments, which he said offers an inside look at the workings of government.

"I've been to meetings of other city councils, school boards and EWEB," he said. "I think it's part of what has inspired me. I want to get involved with actual governance, with doing something instead of talking about 'Wouldn't it be nice if this happened?'"

Bob Ehler
Interview response

Ehler said he "feels pretty good" at the outset of his third attempt at securing a City Council seat. Ehler said he seeks to serve his town as a representative of its low-income residents.

"I live on disability, so I understand that there are people

struggling," he said. "I know what it's like to try to get by and survive with taxes and rates as high as they are."



Ehler said that "keeping in touch with the little guy" includes working on behalf of Cottage Grove's Pay it Forward group, where he often repairs bicycles that are later donated to those who need them.

The proposed tax on recreational marijuana in Cottage Grove is a "good thing," said Ehler.

"If you're going to do something like that, you have to be willing to pay for it," he said. "I smoke cigarettes, so I understand how that works."

Ehler said he supports bolstering Cottage Grove's police force and helping to make police more available to the public. He said he'll also work to bring more living-wage manufacturing jobs to town.

Henry Lancaster
Interview response

Lancaster said that he's already spent the early part of his candidacy "working toward connecting with people" including the leaders of several local businesses.

"It's been very enlightening," he said. "It's given me a lot



more information about what they do and offered a variety of what this town has to offer, and I'm planning to do a lot more of them (visits)."

One message he's heard over and over is how "kind of ridiculous" Cottage Grove's water bills are, cost-wise, in addition to frustration over rashes of recent break-ins and burglaries.

Lancaster advocates the use of the local currency known as Cottage Grove Scrip, which he said helps "put money back in the people's pocket" and "helps keep this community knit together." He said that his experience attending council meetings as the representative of the Youth Advisory Council has given him inside knowledge of the current Council and how city government works.

"I've got firsthand experience, and I can be ready to do the job on Day One," he said.

Lancaster also said he thinks Cottage Grove should work to retain the "good nature" of its citizens that has earned the acclaim of visitors, and he said he plans to work to give Cottage Grove's citizens more opportunities to vote on important issues.

Ward IV candidate

Amy Slay
Interview response

Slay, who was appointed to the Ward IV seat last year, said she wishes more people would bring their concerns to her as their representative.



"I'm hoping to bring more faces into city government and trying to make myself available," she said. Slay was recently part of an effort to start a Neighborhood Watch-style group in Cottage Grove in response to recent property crimes, though she said the effort will need more citizen involvement to be successful.

"I think people genuinely care, I just wish they would commit to being a volunteer," she said.

A Weyerhaeuser employee, Slay described herself as "just a real person" and not a politician or business owner.

"I live and work and raise my family here, so I want Cottage Grove to be the best place it can be," she said.

Grant's HEARING CENTER

FREE Hearing Screenings
FREE Hearing Aid Checks & Cleanings
Just call to schedule an appointment!

Grant's Hearing Centers
www.grantshearing.com 1498 E. Main St., CG 541-942-8444

Trick or Treat on Main Street
Monday, October 31, 2016

HALLOWEEN

If you are a business and want to set up a booth downtown and be a part of the festivities, contact Travis at the chamber office (541) 942-2411.

Transmissions Plus & AUTOMOTIVE SPECIALTIES

PRACTICING THE ART OF TRANSMISSION REPAIR SERVICE SINCE 1991

- ✓ Manual & Automatic Transmission Repair
- ✓ Tune ups
- ✓ 30-60-90K Services
- ✓ Brakes, belts, hoses and cooling system services
- ✓ Mufflers & Custom Exhaust
- ✓ All makes and models.

MAINTAINING YOUR VEHICLE AFFORDABLY

WE LIVE IN THE SAME TOWN WE WORK IN "NO MONKEY BUSINESS!"

www.automotivespecialties.biz

DUSTIN TULLAR & RUSS OWENS
541-942-8022 • COTTAGE GROVE

Donated bone marrow to stranger.

SACRIFICE
Pass It On.

THE FOUNDATION FOR A BETTER LIFE
www.forbetterlife.org

FREE!

MOVIE NIGHT
at the
FIREHOUSE
and safety fair

Activities begin at 6:30PM
-Jaws of life demonstration- -LifeFlight-
-Inflatable slide- -Safety Booths-

Movie starts at dusk
-Movie selected by Elementary Class-

Bring a lawn chair or blanket
Free popcorn & cotton candy
Free hot dog & beverage

Sept. 16 Creswell
Station 203 - 55 N 1st st.
Sept 17 Cottage Grove
Station 201 - 233 Harrison Ave.
541.942.4493 www.southlanefire.org