

COUNCIL

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"They could be out there filling potholes," he said.

Mayor Tom Munroe said the City should definitely move forward with some type of ordinance.

"Either they come up with something, or we will come up with something for them," Gowing responded.

IT

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"We looked at hiring our own IT person, and they're not cheap," Meyers said. "We're getting a service that's much more extensive now than we could ever provide on our own."

Similar partnerships are in place between LCOG and communities like Coburg and Veneta, and Meyers said the City was careful when exploring the arrangement to enlist the services of an IT expert with people skills to guide the City's evolution.

"We wanted a real person, a face to be our contact with LCOG," Meyers said.

Enter Dan Hogue, who is contracted for two days a week at about \$60,000 per year to handle all the City's IT

REALTOR

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by checking listings on her smartphone and laptop.

"Earnest money agreements used to be a page long, and I used to type them out with a typewriter," she said. "Now, they're 10 or 15 pages."

After five years in Creswell, Hemenway-Duran returned to Cottage Grove, where franchise offers soon started coming in for Hemenway Realtors.

"We liked the look of Better Homes and Gardens, and we soon became Hemenway Realtors, Better Homes and Gardens," she said. Through ac-

Meyers stated that the City would confer with local business owners that supply shopping carts and bring the ordinance and their ideas back to a subsequent meeting.

Early in Monday's meeting, Munroe also read a proclamation encouraging "everyone in Cottage Grove to protect the rights of all people,

maintain a community that welcomes all people and condemn all forms of hate."

The proclamation earned kudos from many members of the audience, including Steve Kilston, who stated that he doesn't "think we can do anything that's more all-American than welcome all Americans."

services. The relationship with LCOG also helped guide the City's long-anticipated move to update its website.

"It's been really beneficial," Meyers said, pointing out that the City Council now uses tablets to access email, Council agendas and other information, which are delivered electronically. A new server has been installed at City Hall, and city entities like Middlefield Golf Course and the Library are able to update their own web presence. (Previously, Meyers was the only person capable of updating the City's website.)

"It's really opened things up and made them a lot easier," Meyers said.

Hogue has updated software at several city departments, and Meyers said he was helpful in finally enabling

the City's finance department to accept debit and credit card payments for utility billing. Local company Oregon Internet Properties still handles the City's wireless Internet and fiber optics systems, though the city webpage is now hosted by Aha and utilizes Google as its Internet services provider and for cloud storage.

Hogue is currently working with both the City's water treatment plants and the Cottage Grove Police Department to upgrade their systems.

"It's really, really exciting," Meyers said. "It was a trial at first, because we didn't want an IT person to come in, fix problems and just leave. We wanted a real person to help figure things out with us, and it has worked out great."

quisitions and name changes, Hemenway-Duran and her brother, David Hemenway, operated the family business until about five years ago, when she took command of Hemenway Property Management and her brother aligned with Remax Advantage Plus. In 2015, Hemenway-Duran handed over control of Hemenway Property Management to her nephew, Darrin. These days, she lives near the soothing sounds of the Coast Fork with her husband, Dan, and operates her own business from a home office.

"I didn't realize how traumatic it would be not to have my real estate license," she said.

Along the way, Hemenway-Duran has also watched Cottage Grove change tremendously.

"It was tough when the timber industry went down," she said. "People didn't want to buy, and interest rates went up to 18 percent. At the time, I don't think Cottage Grove liked to think of itself as a 'bedroom community,' but people are more used to the idea now."

Hemenway-Duran said she has sold a few homes on her own, working when she wants to but working hard nonetheless, and she added that she doesn't intend to stop anytime soon.

"It's been a fun ride," she said.

Pick, dry and store seed for planting next year

BY KYM POKORNY
OSU Extension Service

As the garden winds down and etables, let some plants go to seed and harvest them for planting next year.

"Saving seed can be really fun and is a great way to learn about plants," said Weston Miller, a horticulturist with Oregon State University Extension Service. "If you choose the right varieties, you can keep them going year after year without buying them again."

The key to saving seed is selecting open-pollinated or heirloom plants, which produce offspring with the same traits. Hybrids are bred from two different varieties for characteristics like disease resistance or higher yield and won't come "true to type." Check seed packets or catalog information so that you know which you are buying.

The easiest crops for saving seed are annual plants that self-pollinate like lettuce, beans, peas, peppers, eggplants and tomatoes.

Collect seed from the healthiest plants and allow them to dry. Harvest lettuce seed when the seed coat turns hard and dark in color. Peas and beans are ready for harvest when the pod dries on the plant. Pepper seeds are ready when the fruit is fully mature and starts to wrinkle.

Tomatoes are a smidgen more complicated. Allow the fruit to fully ripen and scoop the seeds along with the gel that surrounds them and place in a jar of water. Allow this mixture to ferment for up to five days until the seeds sink to the bottom. Then dry seeds on a paper towel.

Seeds from annual herbs like cilantro (coriander), arugula and calendula are also easy to save. However, these

crops are pollinated by insects and require separation from other varieties of the same crop. Reduce the chance of cross-pollination by planting them as far away as possible from each other, Miller said.

Many broccoli family crops (broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, cabbage, collards, kale, mustard greens) are all part of the same species and are pollinated by insects. Though it is relatively easy to save seeds from these biennial crops, they tend to cross-pollinate easily, and you might end up with new (and sometimes tasty) traits.

It is more difficult to save seed from other crops, particularly in a garden setting. For example, beets and Swiss chard are wind pollinated and cross with each other. These plants require at least 3,200 feet of isolation to prevent cross pollination. Similarly, corn is pollinated by wind, making it difficult to isolate without special screening.

Carrots are insect pollinated and cross with Queen Anne's lace, a common weed. Summer and winter squash flowers are also insect pollinated and require isolation to maintain true varieties. The fruit grown from cross-pollinated squash seeds are often bitter and nasty tasting, according to Miller.

Store seeds in tightly sealed glass containers in a cool and dark location. Make sure that you label seeds with the type of seed and the date. A small packet of silica desiccant or powdered milk in the jar can help to remove moisture and keep the seeds dry. The refrigerator or freezer is also a good place for storing seeds that you collect and also seeds that you buy. Put small seeds in envelopes and label them. Place the envelopes in sealable freezer bags.



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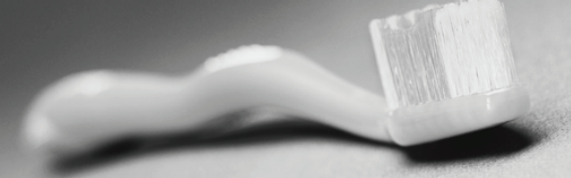
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