

Square Work

Pictured at right is City of Cottage Grove employee Alissa Allen, who spent much of Thursday afternoon helping to remove a circular planter from All-America City Square at the corner of Seventh and Main Streets downtown.

Allen said she fielded questions about the removal of the planter during her work, which City Planner Amanda Ferguson said was part of a plan for improvements meant to bolster the usability of the park, which was redesigned and remodeled by the Economic and Business Improvement District in 2010.

Public meetings were held in May at the nearby CG Armory to gauge the issues present in the now 10-year old park, and Dougherty Architects were tasked with reporting its most pressing issues and possible solutions. According to the report, the park's most pressing issues aside from its maintenance concerned the flow of traffic through the area, and a design detailing its proposed changes includes a new entrance to the park on Seventh Street, in addition to access at the southern end from a nearby parking lot. The need to remove the circular planter was widely agreed upon.

Ferguson said that, per the plan's recommendations, the City will install a circular flat mosaic where the planter was previously located. Gravel will cover the site in the meantime, after which a design competition is planned this spring to arrive at a design for the mosaic.

Public Works personnel are currently working to install a Christmas tree sleeve there that can host Cottage Grove's tree this December. Lighting at the site is also planned. The City also removed a wall separating the park from the parking lot to its south.



photo by Jon Stinnett

South Lane events to commemorate October as 'Farm to School Month'

October is National Farm to School Month, and the Farm to School program and participants in South Lane School District have a plethora of activities planned to commemorate the occasion.

Melissa Fery, a master gardener and coordinator of Farm to School in South Lane, pointed out that the program supports school gardens as outdoor classrooms in grades K-12. It also works to procure more locally grown and processed foods for cafeterias; promote locally grown fruits and vegetables through Harvest of the Month; increase student connection of farms, gardens, where food comes from, and health benefits of eating fruits and vegetables; and encourages students and their families to grow, cook, and/or eat more fruits and vegetables through family engagement programs.

Local October Farm to School activities include two Farm to School training sessions and farm tours with District Food Service staff. Fery and Monica Yoss, SLSA Food Service director, have planned these sessions, the first of which was held on Oct. 4 and featured an hour of discussion about Farm to School, including benefits and challenges with storing, preparing and serving locally produced fruits and vegetables. The group then visited Mike Satterstrom at his Coast Fork Willamette Vineyard and Berry Farm in Saginaw for a tour and tasting.

"South Lane has been serving hundreds of pounds of these locally grown grapes during the harvest season," Fery said.

The second food service staff training was held at Highwire Farm and London School on Tuesday.

During the week of Oct. 17, Harvest of the Month (HOM) tasting tables will continue a monthly tradition of locally grown produce served in the lunch line at all South Lane schools. Apples will be the featured food in October.

South Lane is also working to implement "Eat.Think.Grow" curriculum in its schools is being implemented. Kindergarten and second-grade classrooms at Harrison, Latham, London and Dorena and kindergartners and first-graders at Bohemia are having garden classes this month and continuing through this year. Garden classes at Harrison are held on Mondays and Wednesdays, Bohemia, Tuesday and Thursdays, Latham on Wednesdays.

Farm Field Trips are scheduled for all kindergartners and most second-grade classes this month:

Bohemia Kinders to Ruby and Amber's Farm: Thursday, Oct. 27 at 9 a.m.

London K/1 and 2/3 classes to Ruby and Amber's Farm: Thursday, Oct. 27 at 11:45 a.m.

Latham K and 2 grades will visit Ruby and Amber's on Thursday, Oct. 20 at 9 a.m.

Harrison second graders will visit Ruby and Amber's at the same time.

Harrison Kindergartners are having individual tours at homestead farms with all of the garden components with more hands-on activities:

Mrs. Black's class will visit the Terribly Happy Farm of Beth Pool and Richard Sedlock on Wednesday, Oct. 19 at 9 a.m.

Mrs. Swearingin's class will visit the Terribly Happy Farm on Tuesday, Oct. 25 at 9 a.m.

Mrs. Parsons' class will tour Jerry's Settlemeyers property on Friday, Oct. 21 at 9 a.m., and Dorena K/1 and 2/3 classes will visit Shady Oaks on Thursday, Oct. 20 at 9 a.m.

In other Farm to School news, Cottage Grove High School now has a garden club starting up with Bill Bartram as the advisor.

Lincoln Middle School has Justin and Maggie from Apr-ovecho as guest garden class educators coming in about two times per week to participate in the Garden Class elective taught by Vern Stewart.

Lincoln students help out on their day off

BY SAM WRIGHT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Lincoln Middle School held its own Day of Caring on Friday morning.

Since the school was closed, parents, faculty and students volunteered to help do some renovation work on school grounds. Assistant principal Emily Wren supervised and participated in the work done by dozens of volunteers.

"We're really proud of all of our students that volunteered their free time to do this," she said. The students were given a feast of pizza and donuts at the end of the three-hour work session as a thank-you for all the hard work.

"They aren't getting any extra credit for this stuff, so it's

really touching to see them so dedicated to their school," Wren added.

The work included painting a lot of walls, including painting over a mural that was past its time. The volunteers also installed picnic tables at one of the popular courtyards.

"It's a really popular spot to hang out and it just looked dull and so I think these tables will get a lot of use," Wren said.

Braeden Buckland, a student at Lincoln, said he is proud and has enjoyed the work he's done for Lincoln.

"I just really wanted to make our school look better," Buckland said, coming out of the cafeteria.

The decision to host the campus fix-up came in the spring when staff came together and



photo by Sam Wright

From left, Sy Williams, Maya Wilhour, Preston Holloway and Conner Costa spread bark chips Friday morning.

decided some changes need to be made. Wren says that it was widely agreed that there were many parts of the school that needed to be fixed or changed.

"I think this has really boosted staff morale and made a lot of people happy," she added.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Fill out the form below to have your organization's holiday bazaar included in the bazaar listing in the Cottage Grove Sentinel each Wednesday during the holidays. Cost for this service is \$40.00 for a 1x3 advertisement, 50 words or less. Please enclose check or money order if mailing in this listing.

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