

Lincoln Middle School staff bands together for student

Teachers raise funds for student's family after cancer strikes, insurance won't cover needs

When Lisa Sherman noticed a student acting differently and inquired as to why, she did not expect the answer.

The student revealed that a parent had recently been diagnosed with cancer and it was taking a toll. "I actually called home to ask if I could take the student to lunch to talk and I verified the information," Sherman said. It was then that Sherman was informed that the diagnosis was true and the family had several children in South Lane School District Schools.

According to a press release issued by the school, the parent noted that they would be undergoing radiation treatment later this month and as a result, would need to isolate themselves from the rest of the family. To do this, they would need to be in a hotel room that, unfortunately, the family could not afford.

"They also told the teacher that they did not have money to pay for a hotel and that insurance wouldn't cover the cost of the hotel either," the release said.

Sherman told The Sentinel that she immediately reached out to the school's resources to see if existing programs could aid the family with the cost of the hotel room.

"We have a homeless coordinator here and other programs but they didn't work out," Sherman said. "So, I emailed staff and asked if there was a way that we could raise the money ourselves."

Lisa Clark, a teacher at Lincoln, was part of the group that was tasked with finding a hotel partner willing to offer a discount for a six-night stay.

"That was the part I played," she said.

The staff raised enough money for the hotel stay in Eugene and noted, "We would like to publicly thank the Eugene Springfield Marriot for their generosity and willingness to work with our school and this family in providing a room for one of our community."



On March 12, 2013 at 23:55 hours PST, SLCFR units responded to a house fire in the 800 block of Kings Row in Creswell, OR. Arriving units found the attached garage fully involved. The occupants of the house were three adults, two children, a dog, and a cat, were all safely evacuated and assisted by the American Red Cross. The fire in the garage was brought under control and extinguished soon after by the first due Engine Company from the SLCFR Creswell station. The roof of the attached garage collapsed during suppression efforts. The manufactured home suffered minor smoke and fire damage while the garage and a Dodge pick-up were a complete loss. Fire damage was estimated at \$50,000. The fire cause and determination investigation revealed an electrical outlet in the garage was the likely cause and the fire has been ruled accidental. SLCFR crews were assisted in extinguishing the fire by units from Goshen/Pleasant Hill Fire Districts. There were no civilian or responder injuries as a result of the fire.



Tiny houses Continued from A1

Village, a homeless development in Eugene and is working on Emerald Village in the same city.

The village planned for Cottage Grove, however, has not settled on its target resident, rent, utilities, building plans, parking, bylaws or eviction policy.

Original plans discussed at the initial community meeting called for rent to be approximately \$250 per month and for the target rental group to be those living on Social Security or those who were unable to raise first and last month's rent. The plan also called for the village to "self-govern" and create a sense of community.

However, plans for the village are fluid with rent having since increased and several ideas for the target rental audience suggested.

According to the latest press release, "The plans for Cottage Village call for 13 tiny homes to be built on the property which then will be rented to the residents for under \$400 a month. In addition, a four-bedroom house on the property will be renovated and rented while the project is under development. Cottage Village is being modeled after Emerald Village Eugene, a project of 22 tiny homes scheduled to be built this summer by SquareOne Villages."

Under the terms of the grant, issued by Meyer Memorial Trust to SquareOne Villages, the project must secure land by the end of August and construction

must be completed by the end of 2018. Jean also noted in a press release that she and CVC were looking forward to working with neighbors as the project progressed. The group holds a meeting every Thursday in Cottage Grove and invites the public to attend the last meeting every month to ask questions and bring their concerns to the group.

While the purchase has progressed CVC's goals for the property, the March 8 purchase has not secured the future of the proposed village but, instead, secured land for CVC and SquareOne Villages to research the possibility. Before the tiny homes can be built, the groups must go before the city and contend with the planning board to ensure the project is in line with existing laws and codes. The village will have to include plans for parking, utilities, water, sewer, occupancy and several other areas as mandated by the City of Cottage Grove. All plans must be approved by the city before construction can begin.

City planner, Amanda Ferguson has answered several residents' concerned emails noting that the city has control over specific elements of construction and cannot dictate who is able to rent from a development or what kind of application process must take place. The city is able to mandate sewer, water, building codes and other aspects as written into city code.

The issue of affordable housing in Cottage Grove and Oregon overall has been in the headlines recently with several agencies citing the low inventory of housing and the high demand.

St. Vincent de Paul recently announced that it had purchased the Saginaw Trailer Park just outside of Cottage Grove to create housing for low-income individuals.

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