

Roads

Continued from A1

Cottage Grove residents have complained habitually about the city's roads and bombarded an online reporting forum set up by the city to spot potholes. "We had people reporting all of 6th St.," Meyers previously noted.

The city is currently working on three projects: S. 6th St. from Hwy. 99 to Johnson, Mosbey Creek Rd. from Thorton to Currin and the sidewalk construction on S. 4th near the new school.

In addition to the added funds, the state has set aside \$10 million for the Safe Routes to School fund which can issue grants to municipalities. It's something Meyers said he hopes the city can take advantage of for the coming construction on the sidewalk upgrades.

"Instead of going to homeowners and saying 'You don't have a sidewalk and this is how much it costs,' we can apply for this money and it will pay up to 60 percent of the cost of they project," he said.

The condition of the city's roads continues to be a hot topic with the last city council meeting garnering conversation over the improvements to certain streets adjacent to the railroad tracks. However, the railroad owns those roads and their repairs are subject to the railroad's budget and schedule, not the city of Cottage Grove.

South Lane Wheels re-evaluates

By Caitlyn May
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South Lane Wheels is having an identity crisis. According to the organization, it's having a hard time getting the message out that the service--which provides rides around town for \$1--is for more than just elderly or low-income residents. It's for everyone.

According to Cottage Grove City Planner, Amanda Ferguson, as a way to reach a broader audience and collect more data, South Lane Wheels has created a survey and is asking residents to fill it out to give the organization a better understand of its reputation in the community as well as a clear direction for the future.

South Lane Wheels is using SurveyMonkey, an online survey website, to conduct its survey which features questions such as: Do you own a car? What is your age? What has prevented you from using South Lane Wheels? Currently South Lane Wheels only offers weekday services. Would you benefit from expanding to weekend days? South Lane Wheels offers a Door to Door service where we will pick you up from your home and drop you off at your destination in the Cottage Grove or Creswell areas. Knowing this, at what time of day would you use this service? In addition to the Door to Door service, we also offer a Route Around Town that will pick you up at our designated stops and take you to the popular destinations in Cottage Grove. We will also pick you up at your door for this service if you call ahead. This service is offered from 10 am - 2 pm. Knowing this information, how many times would you use this service? We currently offer a Metro Service that will pick you up and take you to the Eugene/Springfield area. Currently the cost for this service is \$15 each way regardless of where you live, and \$10 each way if you live in Creswell. Knowing this information, what day(s) of the week would you use this service? Currently you can only purchase individual tickets with us. Would you use our service more if we did a discount for families? What methods would be best for you to schedule your bus rides? We are actively trying to

better your experience with us, but to do this we need new members to join the South Lane Wheels Advisory Committee. Would you be interested in joining our team?

The questions, according to Ferguson are a way to assess if a re-branding of the organization should be underway.

According to the organization's website: South Lane Wheels is not just for seniors. Anyone can ride! We are a public transportation system connecting people with where they want to go in South Lane County including Cottage Grove, Creswell, Dorena, Culp Creek, Saginaw, London, and Lorane. These rural communities are very fortunate to have the options of a low cost deviated fixed route, local and metro Dial-A-Ride services, plus group rides within FTA Charter Guidelines. Established in 1982 as a non-profit 501(c)(3) based in Cottage Grove, our mission is to provide safe, accessible and economical service to those who need transportation to local destinations and as far away as the Eugene/Springfield metro areas. For 33 years we have provided thousands of individuals rides to doctor appointments, shopping, restaurants, residences, nutrition sites, recreation, workplaces, school, and special events. Last year South Lane Wheels provided approximately 17,300 one way rides to destinations where folks need to go. Whenever possible we grouped riders to better our environment as we drove over 137,000 miles. All of our ten vehicles are wheelchair accessible, which means a lot to the 2,490 rides for folks using mobility devices. South Lane Wheels is funded by federal, state and local grants, supported by local and in-kind donations, and operated by a dedicated staff and volunteers that believe in our programs. Whenever possible, we partner with area agencies and businesses to maximize our impact. The board of directors provides oversight and conducts a public meeting once a month.

To take the survey, go to surveymonkey.com/r/southlanewheels.

Hot car cook-out at the library



As temperatures soared last week, breaking long-held records, the Cottage Grove Library opted to test out the theory that a hot car can really cook. In order to raise awareness about how hot cars can get inside on a hot day, the library placed a pie, cookies and a pizza on the dashboard of a car as temperatures reached 150 degrees inside.

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DRIVING SAFETY | HIGH-RISK DRIVERS

Educating Teen Drivers

Keeping Teens Safe

Acquiring a driver's license is a huge accomplishment in your teen's life. While they will be ecstatic, parents may become struck with worry over their new inde-

pendence. Teaching a new driver about safety on the road can ease some of the stress.

Take advantage of the time you have before your teen tests for his license. Going over study courses and leading by example while they are accompanying you on the road are great ways to instill safe driving habits. Point out what other drivers are doing irresponsibly. Parental guidance leaves a lasting impression on a learning teen.

Avoiding the Cell Phone

The Department of Motor Vehicles reports that studies have shown using a cell phone while driving is equally as dangerous as driving drunk. Everyone knows that drinking and driving is illegal, and most states also prohibit cell phone usage when behind the wheel. Make sure your child knows a phone is for emergencies and to be used when safely parked.

An average text message causes a loss of focus on the road for 4.6 seconds. A lot can happen in under five seconds, es-

pecially when you consider that is about the amount of time it would take to drive the length of a football field. The road has many obstacles and being distracted by a phone can make them even more hazardous.

Obeying Speed Limits

Speed limits are enforced to keep drivers safe on the road. Tell your teen to not feel pressured to keep up with speeding traffic. Speeding is a big factor in fatal-teen accidents on American highways. Experts believe this is due to inexperience and peer pressure. Explain to your child that even if speeding doesn't result in an accident, there also is the possibility of getting a costly speeding ticket. They should be aware that you will not foot the bill and that their insurance premiums may skyrocket.

Driving Solo

Give your teen some time to adjust to driving without your supervision before you allow other passengers in the vehicle. A full cab of teenagers can be distracting to a seasoned veteran, let alone someone who is just taking their first steps on the highways.



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