

Carousel group, owners have agreement in place

By Caitlyn May
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Don Williams makes connections and hammers out details all over town: the Koffee Kup, Buster's on Main St., the Vintage Inn and countless others. He sits across the table, over a cup of coffee and listens to the movers and shakers around Cottage Grove. He's made connections and solved longstanding issues in the city or simply offered his help where it could be used. One of those projects, was the decades-long fight to bring a carousel to Main St.

Williams is president of Friends of the Cottage Grove Carousel and while he's taken to driving a little less, he still meets with folks via phone and when he can, around town as well. Several of those folks are asking questions about the future of the carousel as near-by Albany, Oregon unveiled its carousel early last week. Questions such as, who owns the Cottage Grove carousel and what does its future look like.

A previous article in The

Sentinel noted that owner, Judy Cash, would remain the owner until her death, at which time her family had the right to sell the attraction for market value.

However, an agreement obtained by The Sentinel tells a different story.

A permanent loan agreement between the Friends of the Cottage Grove Carousel and Judy and Greg Cash agrees that Judy and Greg will retain legal ownership of the carousel while the carousel fundraising group would consider the attraction a loan. Friends of the Cottage Grove Carousel, under the agreement, is responsible for the costs associated with restoring the carousel and the insurance associated with caring for it.

In the event that the Friends of the Cottage Grove Carousel dissolve as previous attempts to restore the attraction have in the past, the carousel will be valued. If that value is over \$40,000, the group is authorized to sell the carousel to a third party. If the value is under \$40,000, the carousel will be returned to the Cash family.

After a recent cancer diagnosis for Judy Cash, question of ownership began to bubble. However, the agreement notes, "Should the loaners expire, the carousel shall transfer as a gift to the Friends of the Cottage Grove Carousel."

The agreement also goes on to note that the carousel shall convert from a loan to a gift once the carousel group has restored 80 percent of the attraction, the carousel is operational and the group has signed a contract for the purchase or a one year lease for a location where the carousel will operate and be open to the public for 24 consecutive or non-consecutive months.

Efforts to bring the carousel to Main St. began more than 20 years ago and according to the group, fundraising efforts are still underway to raise money to secure a location for the carousel and architectural drawings for plans to be submitted to the city.

According to Williams, several subcommittees are hard at work.



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Swinging Bridge

"Round up for the Swinging Bridge" donations are still being accepted on water bills. You can round up your water bill to the nearest dollar or fill in whatever amount you wish.

Community Sharing

Community Sharing needs volunteers in the office most days from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more information, please call (541) 942-2176.

Concert in the Park

The Chamber of Commerce's Concert in the Park series continues tonight at 6:30 p.m. with the Rockin' Reveleers in Bohemia Park. Free admission.

Habitat for Humanity

The ReStore will hold its inventory clearance sale on August 25 and August 26. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. 2155 Getty Circle Unit #1.

Ice Cream Social

The Cottage Grove armory will host its ice cream social on Saturday, August 26 from 1-5 p.m. The family-friendly celebration will feature carnival games, live music and armory tours.

Village Green

The Village Green Round-up will be held on Saturday, August 26 from 7-10 p.m. with dancing lessons by Robyn 21 and older.

You Can Help Cottage Grove Kids!

Volunteer as a Court Appointed Special Advocate

A rewarding, professional volunteer opportunity in 10-15 hours a month helping Cottage Grove foster children to stay safe and healthy. Cottage Grove training begins this fall, with applications due by August 11th.

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