

Main St. program earns cash

By Caitlyn May
cmay@cg sentinel.com



The Oregon State Legislature has invested in Main St. to the tune of \$5 million. The money comes from the lottery bond bill, Senate Bill 5530 which was signed into law.

The grant program was created originally during the 2015 legislative session and placed with the Oregon State Preservation Office. As a result of the legislation, a permanent fund for the Oregon Main Street Revitalization Grant was created and provided an initial infusion of funds from the sale of lottery bonds.

Now, that money will trickle down to Main Street organizations by the spring of 2019.

Cottage Grove's Main St. program got a facelift just this year with the instillation of a new coordinator—who now falls under the city as a city employee—Carlene Giroud.

Giroud is currently part time and works under City Planner Amanda Ferguson but after a few weeks on the job she's going full force.

"That's great. I had heard about the money but I didn't know it had happened," Giroud said of the \$5 million.

The money will be split between Main St. organizations as part of the revitalization program that works to spruce up Main streets across the state.

In the first rounds of applications submitted last spring, 27 matching grants worth \$2,355,700 were awarded to Main Street Network organizations.

Cottage Grove's Main Street Program is part of the Main Street Network.

Awards last spring ranged from \$17,000 to \$100,000 for projects that included improvement to elevator access and seismic upgrades. Klamath Falls Downtown Association, Burns, Independence and Enterprise all received grants last spring for a variety of different programs.

The revitalization program is also responsible for downtown, Main St. businesses in various communities being able to spruce up their store fronts with paint jobs and new awnings. An application process for historic Main St. allows for funding of the revamps.

"If we got the money, let's see, that would be a lot of money. If

they split it without an application process," Giroud said—the program notes that last year's winners were applicants.

"Honestly, I look at the planters on Main St. We have those nice planters but then we have those concrete planters that I think could use a little love," she said.

Giroud is a landscape designer by trade and has owned her own business for 30 years.

Currently, Giroud is working on a website upgrade for the Main St. Program as well as a newsletter she said she hopes to be released every quarter.

"This is just an introduction of me to the community and a thank you for all of the people who sponsors and donated for the hanging baskets because people really do love them and we do get a lot of compliments about them," she said.

Aside from her two projects, Giroud is tasked with getting to know business owners downtown—a daunting task that she's begun.

Cottage Grove currently has several organizations devoted to tourism and economic development including EBID, CDC, the Chamber of Commerce and now the city itself with the addition of Giroud's Main Street Coordinator position as a city employee position.

"There's a lot of groups doing wonderful things," Giroud said. "I don't want to mispeak. I went

to a EBID meeting and they were so helpful. I needed to get a list for my newsletter and they gave me 15 minutes to talk a little bit about myself and I got the list so it was helpful," she said.

"I am hoping to work with all of the groups in Cottage Grove." Money though, would help.

"The \$5 million, divided up would not be enough for the refinement plan," she said. "That's about \$8 million. But everyone agrees that they love flowers and so maybe a discussion about the 11 planters and the half wine barrel planters. More flowers would be good," she said of possible future plans for the money if the city of Cottage Grove were to apply to receive some of the funds.

According to a press release issued by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, "The next round of the Main Street Revitalization Grant will be open in the spring of 2019. The funds must be used to award grants to participating Oregon Main Street Network organizations to acquire, rehabilitate or construct buildings to facilitate community revitalization. The program also requires that at least 50 percent of the funds go to rural communities as defined in the initial bill."

For more information on the Main Street Revitalization Grant or the network, visit oregonheritage.org.

Salsa class

Sustainable Cottage Grove is offering the opportunity to learn to make salsa on Saturday, September 9 from 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Healing Matrix. Price varies on a scale from \$10-\$15. Register by Thursday, September 7 by contacting Beth Pool at (541) 942-2360.

Donations needed

QUILTS for CHARITY is in need of donations. We need fabric (all sizes,) batting, fleece, masking tape, and cotton crochet thread. Volunteers to help tie these quilts out are greatly needed, along with people to help sew them together. The completed charity quilts go to many different places throughout Cottage Grove, Veterans Hospitals, Relief Nursery, Welcome Baby, Women's Shelter, Parent Partnership and Doernbecher Children's Hospital.

Come and join the fun every Tuesday at the Cottage Grove Community Center from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Please contact Ruth Fors at 541-953-6485 or you can drop your donations off at the Community Center anytime.

Fire restrictions

South Lane Fire and Rescue fire season restrictions are detailed in a proclamation by chief John Wooten released on June 29. Mowing of lawns and other activities are restricted. For more information, visit southlanefire.org.

City Council

The Cottage Grove City Council will hold its regular meeting on Monday, September 11 at 7 p.m. in city hall.

Free concert

Eric and Monique Johnson will perform for free on Sunday, September 10 at 6 p.m. at the Seventh-Day Adventist Church on 10th St.

Car show

The annual Cruise into Fall Car Show and Shine will be held on September 16 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 77380 Hwy. 99S.

Blood drive

The Elks will host a blood drive on September 19 from noon to 6 p.m. at 755 N. River Rd. Call (541) 484-9111 for an appointment.

No kids club at Bohemia has parents looking for options

By Caitlyn May
cmay@cg sentinel.com

As the school year approached, Cottage Grove's social media sites quickly began filling up with one question: What are parents doing about after school child care?

While the usual frenzy for child care options is typical, this year's hustle was fueled by the dis-

continuation of Kids Club at Bohemia Elementary School.

The club, which served as an after school child care option and was a saving grace for some parents who worked outside the area and well after the typical school day lets out, was not included in this year's child care options.

"It was actually run by a third party," South

Lane School District Communications Coordinator Garrett Bridgens said. "It wasn't a South Lane program and the person who was running it wasn't able to continue this year."

While the absence of Kids Club has put some parents in a bind, Bridgens said that South Lane does offer a myriad of other options that serve as childcare including homework club and a slew of

other programs either established or in the works.

For parents looking for an after school option for kids, Bridgens said South Lane offers both paid and free programs but the best way to find the program that best fits a families need, he said parents are best suited calling their child's individual school to see what options for child care are available.

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