

On the job for a year, CGPD Chief Shepherd reflects

Scott Shepherd marked his first year as Cottage Grove's police chief on September 14. He'd been in the position for six months after being named to the spot following former chief Mike Grover. As he closed out the first year on the job, he sat with The Sentinel to answer a few questions about challenges, changes and the future.

Q: You were quoted a year ago saying that you were concerned about the weight of responsibility that comes with being police chief. How do you feel about it now, a year later?

A: I don't think the weight of it has diminished. I take this position seriously and it's a complicated position sometimes. I don't want to say that after a year I'm relaxed. You still have to pay attention and be diligent. After a year, there's still a lot to learn as we go through the budgeting process and as employees leave and are hired. These things aren't unique but I take them seriously.

Q: What has been the biggest change under your command at the CGPD?

A: I'd say some of the biggest changes are the officers who have left employment here and go to other agencies. We have people who have left for Lane County and one who went to Eugene. There's a sergeant in process now for Springfield. That comes with the challenge of filling those positions.

Q: After a year, what has been the biggest challenge?

A: Being responsible to the community and those community needs while maintaining the safety and operations of the police department in a way that works. We've been blessed to be supported by the community in Cottage Grove.

Q: What has been easier than you thought it would be?

A: Not to sound trite but being the police chief in a small town and being recognized as such. I think I had good connections with groups and people around town before but when you put chief of police on that, it is a little heavier but I enjoy being the lead guy and it's easy to advocate for what we do here because I'm proud of our organization.

A: What do you hope is easier a year from now?

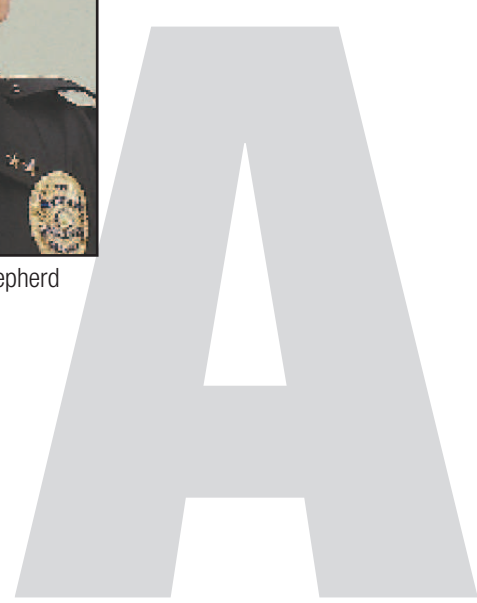
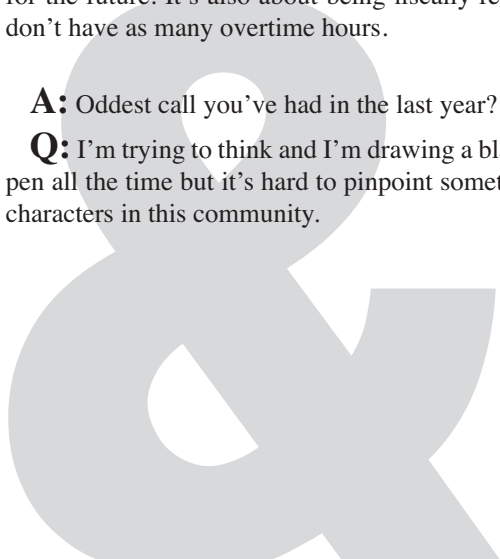
Q: I would hope to have a full staff and that we have leadership in place to take us into future years. We're still working through some growing pains. I completed a yearly personnel process, one-on-one that I will report on and talk about expectations and goals for the future. It's also about being fiscally responsible so that we don't have as many overtime hours.

A: Oddest call you've had in the last year?

Q: I'm trying to think and I'm drawing a blank. Odd things happen all the time but it's hard to pinpoint something. We have some characters in this community.



CGPD Chief Scott Shepherd



Organizations come together for good

Untangling the alphabet soup of development in the city

THE CITY

Funded through tax dollars, aids other organizations in development. Employees the Main St. Coordinator under city planner Amanda Ferguson.

CDC

Funded through existing funds from timber companies and other organizations. Becoming a nonprofit. Works in all of South Lane.

THE CHAMBER

Funded through membership and tourism dollars. Answers to its members and is focused on business and promoting the city.

EBID

Funded by tax district. Pays the Main St. Coordinator. Is responsible for projects within its boundaries. Mostly focused on beautification.

By Caitlyn May
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In the beginning, there was the Economic and Business Improvement District (EBID).

Decades later, there are a slew of organizations (and acronyms) to address the city's desire to develop and draw in business and tourists. And while these groups admit it can be confusing at times, they maintain that the structure ultimately leads to collaboration and more opportunity for the city.

"It's nice to have these organizations with their own missions and they can come together and work together." Cottage Grove City Manager Richard Meyers said. Meyers is also on the Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce roster and regularly meets with chamber executive director Travis Palmer. It's part

of the collaborative nature of the beast which has several limbs that all move in the same direction; toward the future.

EBID was formed first by creating a special tax district. EBID is funded through the taxes it collects from the district and its projects are mandated to the boundaries of that same district.

The Cottage Grove Community Development Corporation (CDC) was also interested in furthering development and soon, its goals were greater than the goals of EBID and so, it became a stand-alone organization funded by money from the Woodard foundation and other organizations. Currently, according to Palmer, it is working on transitioning to a non-profit.

Palmer, as head of the chamber (which is also funded in part by room tax dollars that are doled out by the city) works with

both organizations and is currently the head of CDC as well.

The city is also in on the development push. It employs the Main St. Coordinator--a position that falls under the state Main St. program which is part of the national Main St. program--who answers to city planner Amanda Ferguson. Except the city doesn't pay the coordinator's salary. EBID does.

"They weren't set up for a part-time employee so they were looking for someone who was," Meyers said.

The Main St. Coordinator, Carlene Giroud, works with downtown businesses as a liaison between them and the city. She also interacts with EBID and the chamber.

The confusion, both Meyers and Palmer said, comes from the many organizations but it's also a positive for the commu-

nity. "It's nice because a business owner can call me and I'll immediately set up a meeting with CDC and the city," Palmer said. "They just have to get a hold of one of us and they're in the right place."



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