

# Faye Stewart settles in

## Former commission has been on the job six months



Faye Stewart

By Caitlyn May  
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On the far-left wall of Faye Stewart's office, there's a schematic drawing of Bohemia Park—a Cottage Grove landmark his family's foundation helped usher into existence. Aside from a few family photographs, an office plant and an oversized clock, the office isn't quite personalized yet—but Stewart hasn't had much time to decorate.

September marks six months since Stewart started occupying that office, signaling the beginning of a new joint department that encompasses community development, planning and the half dozen offices that fall under Stewart's new jurisdiction.

"As much as I enjoyed being a county commissioner, I enjoy this too," he said on a Friday morning, the sun streaming through a window that

looks out onto the grass outside city hall.

Stewart announced his resignation from the Lane County Commission in March, citing the opportunity to spend more time with his family and work closer to home in Cottage Grove. He didn't quite fill an open position within the city; Cottage Grove City Manager Richard Meyers announced plans to combine the community development department with the planning department in the wake of the retirement of Howard Schesser at the start of the new year. After narrowing the field down to three candidates, the city opted to hire Stewart to navigate staff through the process of combining departments and shifting roles.

City Planner Amanda Ferguson who had worked under Schesser, has been promoted to a supervisory position under Stewart and the city has hired an additional employee for the department.

City Engineer Ron Bradsby's position also changed under Stewart.

"I discovered that almost everything needs approval or review from the engineer," Stewart said, noting that the workload was causing a backlog. To remedy the issue, he suggested hiring a civil engineer to help shoulder the burden.

"Now the civil engineer handles the road work and that frees Ron up to focus on permits, applications, the treatment plant and other projects."

Prior to Stewart's arrival, the water treatment plant, engineering, permitting and other departments were split between planning and community development. Now, in the new combined model, Stewart directly oversees seven employees including Bradsby, the manager of the wastewater treatment center, maintenance, utilities, an administrative aide and a custodian.

However, managing a staff has been the easy part, Stewart says.

"Since day one, staff has been helpful and supportive," he said.

The hard part of being the new planning and development manager? Learning the process.

As a county commissioner, Stewart said he spent time reading material and giving it the ok. Now, he's the one preparing that material.

"It does make it easier because I will ask myself what I would ask if I was reading it and trying to anticipate those questions," he said. "But early on the challenge was to learn the city's process and how things go before the city council."

Cottage Grove City Manager said he was pleased with Stewart's performance so far.

"he's doing spectacular," he said. "It's nice to have someone able to jump in and hit the ground running with information and contacts. It's been invaluable. He's fitting in great with the staff."

## New cars for CGPD

By Caitlyn May  
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The Cottage Grove City Council voted Monday night to allow the police department to purchase three vehicles it has been leasing for the last three years.

The department will now own the three 2015 Chevy Tahoes as well as a 2015 Ford Interceptor SUV and two 2015 Dodge Chargers. All vehicles will be up-fitted with a police package while a Crown Victoria and Chevy Impala

are leaving the fleet.

Cottage Grove Police Chief Scott Shepherd told the council the added vehicles would allow for flexibility within the department should a vehicle break down and it would avoid having two man cars within the department.

The amount approved by the council is not to exceed \$107,850 and will fund the purchase at a 2.14 percent finance rate for 36 months.

# Parent

## Continued from A1

and later sent out a statement to the press summarizing the investigation's findings. During the September 11 meeting, the board voted to discuss the investigation again and accept its findings.

In addressing the petition, Dr. Parent released a statement through the school district which reads in full, "The complaint filed by Jennifer Holloman was independently investigated and the findings from the investigation were given to the South Lane School Board. The investigation clearly showed there was no wrong doing on my part. Those findings were affirmed by a board vote at their September 11 regular school board

meeting. In addition, the complaints filed by former employee Dave Presley were investigated by district staff and also were found to be without merit. There is a lot of great work to be done in a school district on a daily basis and I am working hard to lead that work.

My family and I have suffered from these personal attacks and we wish to move on.

The district is moving forward with work on behalf of kids and that has been and will continue to be my focus."

Holloman was given the opportunity to comment for this story.



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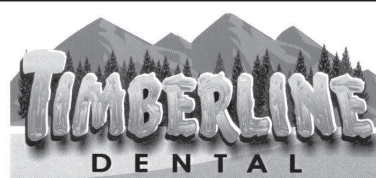
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