

Making an example: City gears up to take on inspector change

By Caitlyn May
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"For the last 30 or 40 years, there have been businesses established that provide inspection services," Cottage Grove City Manager Richard Meyers said. The decades of third-party inspections, however, may be over.

The League of Cities and cities around the state are left scratching their heads about a potential rule change that would have third-party inspections eliminated.

And due to a timing issue, Cottage Grove, and

many cities in Lane County, maybe used as an example by the state on what not to do.

"The state of Oregon adopted statewide building codes," Meyers said. "The state has the responsibility to enforce it. However, if a county or city decides they want to do building inspections, they can. The state authorizes them and they get certified and they get re-certified every four years."

The city of Cottage Grove is due for a re-certification.

Over the course of the last 10 years, various

issues have come to light at the city level and eventually, the state denied a particular city a re-certification based on fact that it used a third-party to handle the inspection.

"They said it violated the

state constitution," Meyers said.

Nine of the 12 cities in Lane County are up for re-certification this year and all nine use third-party inspectors. If the state moves to deny third-party agencies, cities may be forced

to use county services or hire inspectors onto city payrolls.

"The information we're getting is so nebulous," Meyers said. "So, we don't know. We're waiting."



The Friends of the Cottage Grove Carousel held an open house last weekend, allowing members of the community to view the horses and ask questions of the group. It marked the first event since the passing of carousel owner, Judy Cash. Cash always dreamed of owning a carousel and when she found Cottage Grove, she said she found the picturesque town deserving of the attraction. After traveling across the country, she brought the carousel home and hoped to see it on Main St., bringing joy to residents and tourists alike. Cash told the Sentinel in August, "Where else can you take your family now where you can leave your worries at the doorstep and just be in a happy place? It's a happy place."

LORANE NEWS

Boxes are up in all organizations for canned food and non perishable goods for the Lorane Community Christmas Baskets. As you shop, remember those with less in our community.

Parent teacher conferences this Tuesday evening November 21 from 4 - 8 pm in our CAL schools. Then, no school on Wednesday, November 22 with conferences in the morning. No school on Thanksgiving Day and Friday. Lorane Grange meets on December 7 at 7 pm. Their Christmas Dinner and Open House is Sunday, December 10.

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