

NUISANCE *from A1*

become a residence for squatters, rat infested and a risk to public safety. The city eventually located the owner and leased the property, allowing crews to enter the house and resolve the nuisance.

However, finding the owner of zombie houses can prove difficult and was mentioned again and again Monday night as a key obstacle in handling abandoned houses. Because many of the zombie houses are the subject of foreclosures, finding the correct bank or responsive party re-sponsible for the house

has become a chore — even for city officials.

Under the proposed amendments to the current code, the city would be able to label a home as a nuisance and send a letter to the owner of record. If there is no response, a second letter is issued and a sign placed on the property.

Both letters would inform the owner of record that fees are being imposed on the property, something the public works and development office hopes will be incentive enough for the responsible party to either maintain the home or place it on the market.

The current code does not

have a mechanism to order a dangerous home to be vacated.

The council approved the first reading of the ordinance, which can be found on the city's website, but Mayor Jeff Gowing noted that he supported a registry for homes that were deemed abandoned or foreclosed, similar to the list the city of Happy

Valley has instituted. The recommendation for the registry in the memo presented to the council noted that individuals leaving the city — or country — for long spans of time could also add their residence to the registry as a second layer of security in addition to informing local authorities.



GREG LEE/FOR THE COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Cottage Grove residents showed up to participate in a discussion about unity and diversity during last week's meeting hosted by Cottage Grove Community United.

UNITY *from A1*

swastikas, not understanding the meaning, and the privileges associated with caucasian minority communities in comparison to communities of color.

"We think of hate as intense dislike and I want to suggest to you that hate is so much more than that," Bryant said. "If you have hate in your heart and never act upon it and there's no sign of it, it's damaging to your own heart. The kind of hate is when you bring prejudice in the public sphere and use that intense dislike against a particular class of people."

Members of the audience were asked to submit questions which included a query that asked the panel to speak on the "victim rhetoric" used by white supremacy groups — a sect that has grown nationwide according to the South-

ern Poverty Law Center, a group with roots in the civil rights movement that monitors hate groups around the country.

In answering the question, panelists noted that the tactics had been long-used but turned toward what they thought to be a more positive future, with Bryant answering a question regarding the generational differences concerning hate

in general.

He noted that he thought media representation — television, movies and general pop culture — had contributed to millennials acceptance of a more diverse community.

"When we had our first transgendered individual in Opportunity Village it wasn't an issue," he said. "And we've had two transgendered individuals now."

Cottage Grove Community United plans to continue the conversation and an ice cream social held on Tuesday Sept. 18 at Healing Matrix on Main Street at 6:30 p.m.

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Remembering
Those Who Lost Their Lives
And the Loved Ones They Left Behind


Although 17 years have passed, we remember the events of September 11, 2001 as if they happened yesterday. On this day of mourning and remembrance, we pause to pay tribute to the police, firefighters and first responders who made the ultimate sacrifice to save others and to all of the September 11th victims whose lives were cut short. Their memories live on in our hearts and our history, and we wish their loved ones comfort and peace at this difficult time and always.

We Will Always Remember.

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