

# 19th annual Metropolitan Rhythm, Blues Revue set to open Feb. 20

The annual Metropolitan Rhythm & Blues Revue is back for its 19th year at Cottage Theatre, celebrating nearly two decades of great music, smooth vocals, energizing dance and comic commercials.

The popular musical revue, directed by Cottage Grove High School Music Director Devin Wright, opens Thursday, Feb. 20, for four shows at the Cottage Theatre.

When the singing and

dancing is over, students at the high school will have petitions.

**“All of the adults from this incredible community are what make the Metropolitan Rhythm & Blues Revue such an intriguing event.”**

— CGHS Music Director Devin Wright

earned the \$8,000 or so needed to fund their way to music camps and com-

petitions. The show opens with a Beatles set “Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band,” and “With a Little Help

From My Friends,” delivered by the CGHS Jazz Choir, Jazz Band and by this year’s R&B Dancers. The show continues with crowd pleasers in different styles such as Sam Cooke’s “Bring It On Home,” “Do You Wanna Dance” and “Somewhere Beyond the Sea.”

The show will feature the high school jazz band, jazz choir and Microphonics, all backed up by an all-star adult combo of lo-

cal musicians that Wright has put together.

“All of the adults from this incredible community are what make the Metropolitan Rhythm & Blues Revue such an intriguing event,” said Wright. “R&B veterans Joanna Newton and Shelley Dill will again bring their time and amazing talent to the R&B Revue, along with Keith Kessler and Tony Rust. This 19-year-old vision to create a venue where the

community and the high school can collaborate on a professional show has certainly come true. It is a remarkable event.”

Performances will be Thursday, Feb. 20 through Saturday, Feb. 22 at 7 p.m., and Sunday, February 23 at 2:30 p.m.

Tickets are on sale now at Cottage Theatre by calling 541-942-8001 or online at [www.cottagetheatre.org](http://www.cottagetheatre.org).

## City from A1

the success of other cities’ implementation of parklets in her support of the downtown additions.

“One restaurant that I read about reported a 20 percent increase in their business soon after doing it, which means hiring more people, which means more jobs for our community,” she said. “I’m a believer that people attract people.”

Concerns about the safety of the parklets and parking limitations were raised as well.

“I do want to be supportive,” said Councilor Mike Fleck. “But I have two competing concerns. Liability is a real concern of mine ... and another piece I’m concerned about is our current Downtown Refinement Plan is actually designed to narrow the street. And then we’re going to have these further narrowing the street.”

Solesbee felt the city could adapt refinement plans to any new downtown installments and stressed the added benefit of tourism.



Urban Forestry Committee Chair Reilly Newman was congratulated for her efforts in helping bring the Hiroshima Peace Tree to Cottage Grove.

DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

“I think we need to encourage our visitors to linger,” she said. “And if you make that outside area, it will make them stay a little longer. And it’s not just the restaurants that would

benefit. They would shop.” Councilor Kenneth Roberts stated that he had heard concerns about safety from community members as well.

“I’m worried about the

liability issues,” he said. “I’m all for more business and supporting our businesses downtown ... so I think there’s a lot to be discussed on this.”

Mayor Jeff Gowing spoke

to concerns raised about parking availability.

“There are 670 public parking spots between Gibbs and Washington,” he said. “So I support this 100 percent.”

## In other city council news:

### “One Sunny Day of Peace” Proclamation

Mayor Gowing proclaimed Feb. 17, 2020 as “One Sunny Day of Peace” in recognition of the upcoming 75th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima this August. The day will be marked by the planting of a ginkgo biloba sapling which was grown from the seed of a tree which survived the atomic blast in Hiroshima.

The One Sunny Day Initiative, founded by survivor of Hiroshima’s atomic bombing Hideo Tamura Snider, partnered in 2017 with Green Legacy Hiroshima to germinate seeds from the surviving trees and plant them on public lands to create a living connection to the atomic bombing events.

The mayor invited residents to become familiar with the history of the atomic bombing, recognize the work of its survivors and attend the ceremonial planting of the Hiroshima Peace Tree at Coiner Park at 11 a.m.

## February is Spay/Neuter Awareness Month

### Why spay or neuter?

10 million homeless animals enter overcrowded shelters every year. 90% of these animals are not spayed or neutered. 4 to 6 million are euthanized.

Source: American Pet Products Association

Spaying and neutering helps prevent pet overpopulation and euthanasia in our shelters. It also helps eliminate behaviors like spraying, roaming, yowling and fighting!



## Lost & Found

Many shelter animals are picked up and brought in by animal control or strangers. A found pet may have escaped a yard or home without identification and should be brought to a shelter, so owners have a chance to locate and reunite with their pet. Microchipping and keeping a visible ID tag on pets will help ensure their safe return should they ever become lost.

## FAQ: At what age should I spay or neuter my pet?

According to the Humane Society, pets should ideally be fixed by the age of 4 months to prevent accidental litters. Cats can go into heat and become pregnant by 4 months and dogs by 5 months. Whentospay.org reports that female dogs and cats who have gone through their first heat are 16 times more likely to develop the animal form of breast cancer than animals spayed before their first heat. Surgeries are also faster and easier to perform on puppies and kittens, which means less time under anesthesia and quicker recovery.



## Did you know?

Dogs can have 2 litters in a year, with an average of 6 to 10 puppies in a litter. Cats can have 3 litters in a year, with an average of 4 to 6 kittens in a litter.

Source: The National Council on Pet Population, Study and Policy (NCPSP)

**Happy Dog Daycare**  
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**Doggie Doos and Don'ts**  
• In-Home Pet Nail Trimming •  
• Pet Waste Removal  
• Pet Grooming  
• Dog Walking  
• Pet Sitting  
Rachel Azzato  
Owner & Founder  
541-505-4298  
[DoggieDoosAndDonts.com](http://DoggieDoosAndDonts.com)

**Humane Society of Cottage Grove**  
**SPAY/NEUTER COUPONS**  
\$50 off spay coupons for female cats  
\$25 off neuter coupons for male cats  
Coupons are available at This ‘n’ That Corner, 33 N. 8th street, Cottage Grove 10-4 Mon-Sat, and are good at the two veterinary clinics in Cottage Grove and the two in Creswell.  
The coupons will expire February 29, 2020.

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