

City participates in annual ‘If I Were Mayor’ contest

This month, the Cottage Grove City Council approved participating in this year’s “If I Were Mayor” contest, a statewide youth-oriented competition sponsored by the Oregon Mayors Association (OMA).

Area youths are encouraged to share their creative ideas about what they would do as mayor in the form of posters (elementary school), essays (middle school) or digital media presentations (high school).

Cottage Grove’s Youth Advisory Council will be helping promote and prepare youth to participate.

The City of Cottage Grove be holding a virtual workshop on March 1 at 6:30 p.m. for youth who want to attend and learn more.

Mayor Jeff Gowing will be present and will answer questions and discuss ideas for the contest.

The virtual workshop information can be joined by computer, tablet or smartphone.

Information about the meeting will be available on the Youth Advisory Council webpage at cottagegrove-or.gov/yac.

Local entries for the contest must be submitted by 5 p.m. on April 16 to the City Manager’s Office.

The mayor and city council will judge the local entries and announce winners at the April 26 city council meeting.

Local prizes will be:

- Poster contest (grades 4-5) — first place \$50, second place \$25.
- Essays (grades 6-8) — first place \$75, second place \$50.
- Digital Media Presentation (grades 9-12)

— first place \$100, second place \$50.

The local first-place winners will be submitted to statewide competition.

Judging by OMA members will occur in early to mid-June and statewide winners and their mayors will be notified shortly after the judging takes place.

First place winners and their parents will be invited to attend the awards luncheon held during the OMA Annual Conference in North Bend at the Mill Casino on July 31, where they will receive their prizes — a gift valued at \$500.

For more information, visit online at www.oregonmayors.org/special-programs/page/student-contest.

Crafty Mercantile, Opal Center team up to sponsor student art contest

The first-annual Crafty Mercantile & Opal Center Student Art Contest is now open for submissions.

Student artists ages 5-18, who live in Cottage Grove or surrounding areas, are invited to participate by creating and submitting original artwork.

There are three age categories, 5-8, 9-12 and 13-18.

Prizes include, art supplies, gift certificates, art classes and more.

Artists can use any mediums but pieces must be able to be hung or displayed on a table. Artists can enter up to three pieces but one is fine as well.

Label your entry with your name, age and contact information.

Fill out the release form.

Drop off pieces at The Crafty Mercantile, 517 East Main St. in Cottage Grove.

The contest is open to entries through Feb. 26.

No entries will be accepted after the Feb. 26 deadline. Winner’s will be notified after March 8.

Pieces will be displayed in the windows of The Crafty Mercantile and The Opal Center.

Judging criteria:

- All properly labeled entries
- Innovative presentation
- Unusual perspective or viewpoint
- A message or idea that is being conveyed
- Skill with the medium appropriate to the age group (although sometimes the significance of the message is more important than the medium)
- Colors coordinated or contrasted for emotional impact
- Design elements that work together

tries will be judged by a panel of area artists. Judges are looking for:

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