

Magnolia Gardens hosts dementia support group

Magnolia Gardens is hosting a dementia support group for caregivers, spouses and those affected by Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia. This group will be meeting in person at the First Presbyterian Church in Cottage Grove every third Thursday of each month from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Some of the key benefits of attending a support group include: Ongoing education about Alzheimer's and other dementia, learning about community resources, improving coping skills and gaining a sense of control over individual situations. Having the opportunity

to share with others who may be going through a similar situation is very important. Magnolia Gardens emphasizes the importance of self-care, sharing and gathering ideas on finding a better balance between the caregiving role and other essential aspects of life such

as family, work and personal time. The first support group will be on Thursday, May 20. COVID precautions are being taken and anyone interested in attending or needing more information can contact Ruth Tracey at 541-942-0054.

City releases April 2021 building inspection services report

For the month of April, the Building Division of the Public Works and Development Department issued 50 permits, one for a single-family home, and performed 125 inspections in Cottage Grove. In Creswell, 26 permits were issued, three for single-family homes and one manufactured home, while performing 49 inspections.

In Veneta, 11 permits were issued, one for a single-family home, and 18 inspections were performed. In Coburg, 15 permits were issued and 34 inspections were performed. Staff reviewed and approved 30 plan sets in April and 22 plan sets are in review or on hold for additional information.

PLAN from A1

the natural flora and fauna of the Willamette Valley," said Larson-Friend. "And because it's right next to

the water treatment plant, there's a natural relationship between them and the city to basically promote the hydrology of the area as well." There is also potential

to incorporate a parcel of ODOT-owned land north of the park. The parcel, however, is known to be used by a homeless population and no plan of approach on this has been firmly submitted.

The Public Works and Development Department will begin to strategize next steps for improving the park based upon the guidance outlined within the master plan.

the last change order for the project," said City Engineer Ron Bradsby. A total of roughly \$4.1 million has so far been spent on a project budgeted at around \$5.5 million.

space with its effluent, the city council awarded Milfroy Golf Systems with a project to construct a new irrigation system and basic landscape plantings within the I-5 interchange (exit 174) and north of the Cottage Grove Connector. Milfroy Golf Systems was the sole bidder of the project in the amount of \$458,516. A landscape architect estimate of constructions costs put the project at nearly the same amount of \$450,000.

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Even so, Larson-Friend had several suggestions for the parcel.

In other council news: Safe Routes Change Order

The city council authorized a change order for the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) and Fillmore Stormwater Outfall project.

Civil Engineer Ryan Sisson detailed the process of vetting the company before recommending it to council, including receiving a recommendation from the landscape architect.

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"It would be a really natural wetland experience for visitors," he said. "The plan would include how to put in trails and boardwalks and beach access and other amenities. And there's even more potential for habitat floodplain and fisheries restoration, which is pretty exciting as well."

Three work items brought the total change order to \$12,892. The project's completion date was also extended from May 31, 2021, to Aug. 31, 2021.

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Any extra work requested by residents will also be reimbursed to the city. The project is expected to be completed by Sept. 1 this year.

Planners are also considering renaming the park, suggesting a name of a local tribe as a possibility. Future public input in the process will help determine the outcome.

The aggregate sum of the project's change orders has exceeded 10 percent of the original bid, which was about \$3.5 million, prompting the council's approval. "We anticipate this being

any extra work requested by residents will also be reimbursed to the city. The project is expected to be completed by Sept. 1 this year.

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DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Are you ready?

You can make a difference during Wildfire Awareness Month

The Office of State Fire Marshal wants to remind Oregonians that **YOU** are the greatest resource in protecting homes and neighborhoods. With some simple steps, you can protect your home and community from wildfire. Now is the time to prepare your home and your property for the 2021 fire season.

Remember to keep your defensible space defined, keep grass and weeds cut low and always be prepared to respond to wildfire. With this in mind, the Office of State Fire Marshal urges you to take a look around your property in the "home ignition zone," where glowing embers can ignite spot fires and vulnerable areas like decks, patios, and fences that can spread flames to your home. The most significant risk of structures catching fire during a wildland fire event is from the advancing **ember shower** that can reach your property long before an actual flame front.

Good defensible space can not only prevent ember ignition of your home, but it can also prevent the flames from reaching your home at all. We can reduce the vegetation within 30 feet of home and eliminate flammable plants from touching our home.

"Wildfire safety starts with all of us and our property. Now is the time to take action to prepare our homes, families, and communities for wildfires by starting on our property before there is smoke on the horizon," says Mariana Ruiz-Temple, State Fire Marshal.

To address the risk of wildfire, the Office of State Fire Marshal recommends the following steps that people can take **right now** to help protect themselves against the upcoming fire season:

- Clear roofs and gutters of dead leaves, debris, and pine needles that could catch embers
- Ensure your roof is in good repair

Move any flammable material away from exterior walls, i.e., mulch, flammable plants, leaves and needles, firewood piles

Remove anything stored underneath decks or porches

Give your home a non-combustible area where a fire in the landscape can't reach your home, strive for a 5-foot perimeter

Keep lawns and native grasses mowed to a height of four inches.

Remove ladder fuels (vegetation under trees) so a surface fire cannot reach the crowns. Prune trees up to six to ten feet from the ground; shorter trees do not exceed 1/3 of the overall tree height.

With firefighting resources doing their best to tackle large wildfires, communities that focus on neighborhood-wide Firewise ideals can not only increase an individual home's survival but the whole neighborhood's.

"A neighborhood-wide approach can increase the chances of homes surviving a wildfire. By taking a neighborhood approach to defensible space and community preparedness, you are also protecting our firefighters," Ruiz-Temple explains. "Ultimately, individuals taking the right steps on their property before fire season make firefighters safer and more effective," she adds.

Creating whole neighborhoods that are holistically preparing for wildfire is a large piece of Fire Adapted Communities. A fire-adapted community acknowledges and

takes responsibility for its wildfire risk by taking actions to address resident safety, homes, neighborhoods, businesses and infrastructure, forests, parks, and open spaces all Oregonians enjoy.

For more defensible space tips, visit: <https://www.oregon.gov/osp/programs/sfm/Pages/Wildland-Urban-Interface.aspx>

During May, a new wildfire prevention topic will be introduced each week to help homeowners and recreationists learn how to prevent their outdoor activities from sparking the next wildfire. For more wildfire preparedness and prevention information, visit the websites for Keep Oregon Green at <https://keeporegongreen.org/>, the Oregon Department of Forestry's restrictions map <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/fire/Pages/fireprevention.aspx>, OSU's new Fire Program at <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/fire-program> and OSU's Oregon Wildfire Risk Explorer tool: <https://oregonexplorer.info/topics/wildfire-risk?topic=62>



PUT TOGETHER A PLAN

Make sure all the pieces are in place to render you and your family prepared in the event of a natural disaster.

- Listen to radio or television newscasts for the latest weather information, and follow all evacuation directions and suggestions.
- Keep a stock of non-perishable food items as well as bottled water on hand inside your home.
- Keep a 72 Hour Kit on hand inside your home that is easy to get to in the event of a disaster.

For more information and tips on disaster response and preparedness, contact your local emergency services center.
South Lane Fire & Rescue • 233 Harrison Ave, Cottage Grove 541-942-4493 • 55 South 1st Street, Creswell 541-895-2506



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