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Cottage-Grove-Sentinel

# Fall brings annual leaf pickup

Fall is in the air, the temperatures are getting cooler, rain is starting to fall and tree leaves are changing color and starting to drop from the trees.

Beginning this Mon-

day, Oct. 25, the first round of leaf pickup started. City staff will be working to pick up residential piles of leaves placed in approved areas along city streets.

Residents are allowed to place leaves on city streets in street parking sites near the street gutter without blocking it. Residents are asked not to block bike and traffic lanes or place leaves on streets with no on-street

parking.

There is a leaf dump site at the Row River Water Treatment Plant at 3300 Row River Road or in the pull-out lanes on River Road.

Do not put leaves in plastic bags and place only leaves in piles; no branches, shrub prunings, blackberry vines, lawn clippings, rocks, metal or other debris.

Additional leaf pickup dates are Nov. 15

through Nov. 19 and Dec. 13 through the Dec. 17. Piling up the tree leaves helps keep them out of the city stormwater drainage system, allowing the rain to flow out of the city without flooding properties. For additional information or questions regarding the leaf pickup please call the city Public Works and Development Department at 541-942-3349.

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### BOARD from A1

they were basically built for one gender in terms of dorms, locker space and shower facilities," said SLCFR Fire Chief John Wooten. "So we have to address that."

Currently, only the Saginaw station provides separate facilities for male and female trainees.

Although SLCFR does not employ any full-time female career staff, there are four female members between the district's resident and reserve programs.

"But as we go out for hiring, we're seeing more and more female applicants that are perfectly capable of doing the job," said Wooten.

The district is also looking at adding dedicated paramedic positions to its roster, which would enhance its EMS capability.

Also on the wish list are "heart friendly" tones which alert responders to emergencies.

"You know, the tones that we have actually are proven to be not healthy —

in the middle of the night, waking people up," said Wooten.

The new "incremental tones" would gradually increase volume in order to reduce stressors on crew and reduce fatigue, tachycardia and potentially long-term physical and psychological disorders.

An increase in staffing is expected as the district's coverage area grows in population as well, prompting a need for larger facilities.

"We don't have any room to add more staffing, even if we found the money to do it," said Wooten. "We don't have anywhere to put them."

The possibility of adding another Cottage Grove station on the east side of town has even been floated.

And like the Creswell station, the current Cottage Grove station has also reached the limit of its lifespan, which is around 40 to 50 years.

The new committee will consider these and other details over the next several months by soliciting community feedback and

insights.

"Really we just want the stakeholder group to look at it and give the board some honest feedback on what the community wants from a remodel or new facility," said Wooten.

To realize the final plans, including the Creswell project, funding will likely have to be achieved by lumping them together into a single general obligation bond, which should be seen on the ballot sometime next year.

Wooten projected that, even if the bond goes on the ballot and passes next May, construction costs could prohibit any movement until the second or third quarter of 2022, when supply chain issues are expected to resolve.

"So maybe part of the conversation, maybe what comes out of the stakeholder meeting, is that it's not a good time to put a bond on the ballot," he said. "And if that's the case, then we'll wait. But we at least need to have those conversations now and find out what people will support."

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