

Friday September 18, 2015

Good Friday afternoon everyone! Well, we finally got some long awaited rain and it came at exactly the wrong time. Paving on the North Stephens project was about 40% completed through Tuesday morning, but cooler temperatures and rain halted the paving for a while. Sunday, Monday and Thursday night Knife River was able to complete three of the five lane miles of grinding and inlay of the asphalt to renovate that approximately one mile stretch of road. Most of the ADA ramps have been completed and the crosswalk near the Cow Creek Tribal Administrative Offices is currently undergoing construction. The project will finish as soon as the weather permits.

Human Resource Director John Van Winkle and Fire Chief Gregg Timm, as well as the rest of our "A" team have been actively recruiting for a number of positions in the Fire Department. Applications have been received for firefighter, Assistant Chief and Battalion Chief positions. Phone interviews were held this week for the AC position and we hope to complete that process soon. The other two positions will be filled in the near future.

Police Chief Jim Burge was recently notified that four of our Police Department employees were nominated for and will receive the "life-saving" award at the annual Oregon Peace Officers Association Awards banquet in November. Officers O'Dell, Rosas and Schreiber and Sergeant Oelrich will be honored for their intervention in an attempted suicide in which they saved the life of a citizen in need. In this day and age, it is great to see our law enforcement professionals honored for their bravery and heroism. I appreciate what all of our public safety folks do on our behalf every day, but many times their work goes unrecognized. Great job! And thank you.



On Wednesday a group of folks from the Portland Trailblazers were in town promoting youth activity, community health and the Blazers. They held a couple of assemblies at local elementary and middle schools, held a Blazer flag raising photo opportunity with Council President Ryan at City Hal and then moved over to the parking lot just west of the Stewart Park softball fields to hold a "Blazer Fair" from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Blazer broadcasters Mike Rice and Mike Barrett were in attendance. The "fair" attracted a few hundred community members and the kids had a great time participating in a shooting contest (basketball not guns) as well as going

through a number of booths Blazer sponsors had set up with wellness and healthy lifestyle messages. The event received great media coverage from the paper, radio and television and in my conversation with Mike Barrett; he indicated that Roseburg had the largest community turnout of their five city tours this year.





Thursday Brian Davis and I attended a workshop on Enterprise Zones and other Oregon Tax incentives which was provided by Business Oregon and supported locally by CCD. Enterprise Zones are one of the few local incentives that can be provided to incentivize new construction and major equipment acquisition to promote job growth. The program was well attended with representatives from Douglas and Coos Counties as well as folks from the assessor's offices of both counties.

Thursday also marked the end of the internship period for Kyle Morris who spent the last six months working side by side with folks in our Public Works Engineering Division. Nikki budgeted for this position last year in hopes we could provide an opportunity for some OSU engineering students and in turn receive some quality help during our busiest times at a reasonable cost. We all think that Kyle was a great fit and the program benefitted both our intern and the City. We look forward to continuing the program in the future.



I generally like to end these correspondences on an upbeat note, but I am saddened to share that long-time employee Tracy Fox, who retired in October 2012, passed away this week unexpectedly. Tracy began his career with the City of Roseburg Fire Department as a firefighter in July 1984 and worked his way up through the ranks. He retired in 2012 from the position of Battalion Chief after 28 years of service to our organization and the community. Please keep Tracy's family in your thoughts and prayers on this Friday afternoon.

Take good care.