

Friday, July 1, 2016

Good Friday afternoon to everyone! As everyone knows, Lance has been off this week, so this Friday's message is truly coming from all the Department Heads – thank goodness they're always willing to help me out!

On Monday, Lance, Debi and Brian attended a tourism town hall meeting at the Public Safety Center in which Travel Oregon CEO Todd Davidson discussed ways in which the state and local jurisdictions can work to improve tourism efforts. Oregon has seen tremendous growth in the tourism industry, and he emphasized the potential that Southern Oregon, and particularly Roseburg, has in tourism (Todd's online bio starts with his love for the North Umpqua). Travel Oregon has and will continue to conduct similar town halls throughout the state this year in an effort to increase visibility and technical assistance.

On Wednesday, Brian attended a workshop in Medford put on by FEMA and the Department of Land Conservation and Development regarding potential regulatory changes to the flood plain. You may have heard on the news this week that our Congressional Delegation sent a letter to FEMA asking it to proceed collaboratively as it drafts regulations intended to protect endangered species in the flood plain. The Congressional Delegation was particularly troubled by the tone of FEMA's letter in which it threatened local jurisdictions with penalties for noncompliance with no timeline.

This week brought about some changes in staff. In the Police Department, three long-term employees announced their pending retirement. Sergeant Aaron Dunbar and Officer Roger Childers retired effective today, July 1st. Sergeant Dunbar started with the City in December of 1986 after working with the Canyonville Police Department. Officer Childers started in December of 1987 and has spent his entire career with us. Additionally, Sergeant Bryan Oelrich will be retiring on July 29th. Sgt. Oelrich started in June of 1982 and worked for the Winston and Sweet Home PD's prior to coming to Roseburg. All 3 have been super-dedicated and loyal employees and have dedicated their hearts and lives to our community. They will be greatly missed, but all deserve this huge accomplishment. A life-long career in law enforcement can take its toll on a person in many ways but these three guys have exemplified exactly what "public service" means.



Corporals Dennis Chrisenberry and Jeremy Sanders will both be promoted to sergeant positions to fill the vacancies left by Dunbar and Oelrich ~ so congratulations to both of them. Dennis will fill Dunbar's position effective today, July 1 and Jeremy will fill Oelrich's position beginning August 1st. That leaves us with an open solicitation for the corporal positions vacated by their promotions.

We are also excited to bring on two new employees starting in early July. Merrill Gonterman is relocating from Canby to fill a Battalion Chief position in the Fire Department. He joins us from the City of Portland Fire Bureau where he started in 1986 and worked his way through the ranks of Firefighter, Lieutenant, Captain, Battalion Chief, Assistant Fire Marshal, Deputy Chief of Special Operations and Division Chief. Coming to Roseburg will allow Merrill to continue his career in the fire service as well as be close to

his family. With over thirty years of service and fire service experience he will be an asset to the Fire Department.

We also have an experienced Police Officer, Chris Bonebrake, who will be joining us after two years with the Douglas County Sheriff's Office as a Patrol Deputy. In recruiting news, the Public Works Department is working to wrap up the hiring process for the Engineering position that Council authorized with the approval of this year's budget. We hope to have a new employee in that position starting August 1.

Council President Ryan and the Fire Department recently gave the lifesaving award to Tracy Belanger, manager of Fred Meyer, for his life saving efforts. Tracy was called to action after a customer, Nancy Strand, had eaten too much peanut butter and was choking. Strand is a diabetic and was attempting to stabilize her blood sugar levels. Tracy had recently recertified his first aid training and went into action. He successfully performed the Heimlich maneuver, as Nancy was turning blue. The Fire department was grateful to see the successful outcome as they arrived within a minute thirty seconds of the initial call.



On the Public Works side of things, it was good to hear that the contractor is supposed to do some cleanup work and get mostly out of the way for graffiti week. There may still be some lane closures in the mornings (during the week) but they are supposed to open up by noon. The following is an update we received earlier this week from ODOT and Koree emailed separately this morning:

ODOT PROJECT UPDATE ODOT moves off road for Independence Day, Graffiti Weekend

Motorists will find it easier to get around Roseburg next week. From Friday afternoon, July 1, to Sunday evening, July 10, most lanes through ODOT's Roseburg project area will be open for Independence Day and Graffiti Weekend traffic.

There are a few exceptions. Motorists can expect work zone lane closures on Tuesday, July 5, the day before Graffiti begins. Also, there will be intermittent lane closures on the mornings of July 6-8. Some turn lanes will not be open.

Several traffic control changes will be in effect the week of July 11-15, when construction resumes:

- The one block section of Douglas Avenue between Rose Street and Stephens Street will be intermittently closed. Motorists are advised to use alternate routes.
- Flaggers will provide around-the-clock traffic control at the intersection of Douglas Avenue and Stephens Street.
- Washington Avenue will be limited to a single lane between Rose Street and the railroad tracks.

Starting the morning of July 11, the Oak Avenue Bridge will be reduced to a single lane until late summer. This \$10.5 million *OR 138E Corridor Solutions* project is scheduled for completion this fall.

Spruce Street: Throughout July, the City of Roseburg will continue construction on its Spruce Street project, south of Oak Avenue. Watch for lane closures and use alternate routes.

For more project information, visit www.roseburg138.com.

Nikki and her staff are continuing to work with FEMA on a couple of projects resulting from damage that occurred during the December 2015 storms. This may lead to reimbursement for a portion of the costs to replace a storm line near the social security office and the frame of the Stewart Park band-shell. They are also working towards funding projects to address riverbank erosion in Stewart Park and near the bike path between Gaddis and Deer Creek parks. And needless to say, the maintenance crews have been busy facilitating community events. It's a busy time between the Summer Arts Festival, Hometown 4th of July and Graffiti all being three weekends in a row.



We received the following announcement from Downtown Roseburg Association and thought it was an excellent opportunity so we wanted to pass it along to everybody:

Greetings! Here is your opportunity to have a voice in the future development of downtown Roseburg.

A consultant, Bill Flood, has been retained to make recommendations regarding future development. Some of the ideas under consideration are and Artisan Center, a maker's space (a place where people can rent space and equipment to build things), live/work spaces, artist studios, cooperative gallery or more galleries, and an arts center (with maybe performance venues, etc.).

Does one of these or something else stand out to you as the best focus for downtown?

Here is the link to a SUPER BRIEF Survey Monkey survey to give feedback to the initiative. The survey will close in about a week so today would be a good time to make your voice heard. Please send this link to anyone who might like to give input.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LXS7M2S>

Your feedback will be integrated into a KEY LEARNINGS document that will lead to development of the final report. Thank you for your time.

We would encourage all of you to take a few minutes and respond to the survey.

Next Thursday on July 7th, Mayor Larry Rich will officially cut the ribbon for the “grand opening” of the City of Roseburg’s downtown streetscape and public art project. You are all invited to attend. A flyer is included with location information and time.



That about wraps it up for this week! We hope everyone has a safe and fun holiday weekend and that you have an opportunity to enjoy the activities at the “Roseburg Hometown 4th of July Celebration” in Stewart Park. The vendors, which will include Rolling Thunder BBQ, Booster Juice, Umpqua Dairy Ice Cream, BeDazzled Face Painting, and Rocking GP BBQ (on the Fir Grove side), will open up at 4:00 in the afternoon. Live music will begin at 6:45 and include performances by the Big Horn Band, Midnight Pacific and Mojo Boogie, with each set lasting about an hour. The National Anthem will be at 9:55 and fireworks go off at 10:00!! Enjoy!



You're Invited!



Please join us for a ribbon cutting ceremony at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 7th on Oak Avenue between Jackson Street & Main Street

Downtown Streetscape Grand Opening

oak + jackson intersection
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