

Friday February 27, 2015

Good Friday afternoon everyone. It looks like we might be returning to some semi-normal February weather! We can certainly use the rain here in town and some snow up the North Umpqua.

It's been a busy week here at work and for some of our work families. I would like to congratulate a number of staff and their children on recent accomplishments. Finance Director Ron Harker's son David won the Southern Oregon District Championship in wrestling at 160 pounds for Roseburg and is competing at the state meet this weekend. Accountant Della Mock has two daughters, Ricki and Kayce, who will be playing in the girls state basketball tournament next week for Sutherlin. Sutherlin's girls won the 4A State Championship last year and have gone undefeated this year. Associate Planner Teresa Clemons' daughter Libby was recently named Winston Female Future First Citizen at their community's First Citizen Banquet. That is quite an honor for Libby who will be attending U of O next year and possibly looking at career opportunities in local government administration. Congratulations to these students and their families for their achievements and good luck at state!

Next Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. at the Fir Grove Park pavilion we will hold a joint ribbon cutting ceremony with PP & L to celebrate the successful Blue Sky Challenge that we participated in over the last year and recognize the Blue Sky award of the solar panel and installation on the concession stand at the park. Mayor Rich and PP&L President Pat Reiten will speak about the Challenge, the Project and then cut the ribbon to the new installation. You are all invited and encouraged to join us at the ceremony. Mr. Reiten will be in Roseburg March 4th and 5th to meet with local businesses and organizations to talk about the company's profile, their interest in our community and their desire to work with us on economic development opportunities. The availability of inexpensive power is an economic incentive for southern Oregon businesses and a tool we use when talking with potential business ventures considering the Roseburg area for relocation.



Thanks for your attendance at our last Council meeting. I am looking forward to working on our Council goals for the next two years. As we complete our budget preparation for the next fiscal year, we need to remember the importance of our commitment to infrastructure, community livability and City image as well as our desire to work with the community on beautification standards and projects. I would like to express my thanks to former Councilor Marty Katz for his efforts on behalf of the community as well. I know it was a difficult decision for Marty to leave the Council at this time and we wish him luck in the future. At the same time, welcome to John McDonald who attended his first of many Council meetings this week. We look forward to working with John as we get started in 2015!

You have probably seen “one call” markings on Stephens Street, Pine Street and Harvard Avenue being finished up this week. Our contractor for the pre-highway 138 corridor waterline project has been given their notice to proceed and will begin construction at night in about a week. Construction will take place from 7:00 PM until 7:00 AM beginning around March 8th and continuing for about four months. The waterline replacement project is funded through the City’s water utility and will replace or upsize waterlines that have been in the ground for fifty to almost one hundred years. The work on this project will be done at night to minimize the impacts on traffic and on local businesses. We will keep you posted on our progress on this project.

Staff is meeting with i.e. Engineering to finalize our Oak/Washington project in anticipation of going to bid in March. This is a pretty exciting time for us as we move forward with some very significant infrastructure projects. The Oak/Washington and the 138 Corridor projects both include “beautification” components as well. Public Works staff and I are also working with Pivot Architects on design options to open up the parking structure and make it aesthetically more appealing, safer and more secure. We anticipate having updated options to consider during March and will then plan an open house to get additional public input in early April. The Downtown Roseburg Association recently surveyed 150 businesses (with about a 25% response) in downtown regarding parking issues and the appearance of the structure. The perception that it is unsafe was one of the top three issues identified in the survey response. We have money in the Urban Renewal CIP for structure improvements in the 2015-16 portion of the plan and will budget for the improvements for next fiscal year. We would like to complete this project during the summer and fall of this year.

Have a great weekend everyone! Don’t forget the ribbon cutting for the Blue Sky solar project next Wednesday, March 4th at 4:30 p.m. at Fir Grove Park.

