

Friday October 16, 2015

Good Friday afternoon everyone. It seems that things are finally beginning to seem somewhat normal organizationally, but I cannot help but think normalcy is a long ways away for our community. Once again I would ask that each of us keep the families, students and faculty that were so dramatically impacted by the events of October First in our thoughts and prayers and support those who have been providing services to them. A new website, UCCSTRONG.com should go live later this week with information, stories, and messages of healing. Our community has continued to step up to help in so many ways. I want to thank each and every one of them!

So, back to business. As you are likely aware, the work on Stephens from Stewart Parkway to Newton Creek is pretty well wrapped up. The ADA ramps and grind overlay are complete and the center lane slurry and striping were also recently completed. There is some work left to finish the mid-block crosswalk near the Cow Creek Administrative offices then the contractor will be done. This was a great opportunity to fund a significant improvement with funds from both the City's transportation funding and our Urban Renewal Agency funding. We will be looking at a couple of similar projects over the next few years.

The work on our Oak/Washington project is progressing nicely as the contractor flipped traffic today to the recently completed sections of the Washington at Main and Washington at Jackson intersections. Most of the streetlight poles are in and the Oak Avenue intersections have been completed. I hope you have had a chance to wander through the work areas. It is very exciting to see the progress that is being made. All of us who have been involved in this are looking forward to a grand re-opening of downtown before the holiday season begins.

Chief Timm and HR Director Van Winkle, ok Gregg and John, have been involved in recruitments for fire fighters as well as a Battalion Chief and Assistant Chief position. The recruitment process and interview process for the Assistant Chief position concluded today, and we will determine soon how we will be moving forward. Once that position is settled, we will re-engage in the BC process. John and Gregg put together a solid process and we think we ended up with good results. We will keep you posted. Also on the Public Safety side, the Police Department team wrapped up a police officer recruitment this week as well.

We received word (and a check) this week that Pacific Power's Foundation awarded the City \$5,000 towards our spray park and playground project that will be constructed in Fir Grove Park next year. Barbara Taylor from our Parks Administrative team has been

putting together a series of grant applications to help us move forward with that project. Barbara and Nikki also recently approached the Morning Rotary to help us with the local fundraising component, and they have agreed to officially sponsor us moving forward. As you are all aware, we could not succeed without the help and support of organizations like our Rotary Clubs. The spirit of volunteerism and community pride shows through in virtually every aspect of the services that our citizens receive.

The Finance Department is working on the final stages of our financial software conversion this month. This has been a multi-month process, and the Finance staff continues to be very excited about the prospects of having a system that will allow them to provide real time information to our internal users and to provide better and more accurate information to users of the system. I have been through a couple of financial software conversions, so I appreciate the hard work and dedication it takes to get through the process. The Finance Department also recently completed the audit on-site work with the staff from Neuner and Davidson and we anticipate the CAFR will be out a little earlier this year. Again, kudos to Ron and his staff in Finance.

We are getting into seasonal transition time in parks and public works as well. Leaves are falling in the streets and in the fields, and once we get some rain (you remember rain right) the storm drainage crews will be heading out around town to take care of leaf pickup and other maintenance issues. As soon as we get the real weather change we will be posting the leaf pick-up schedule. Right now the crews are scheduled to begin picking up the leaves on November 2. The general location schedules can be found at <http://www.cityofroseburg.org/departments/public-works/leaf-program/>.

A number of our administrative team will be out next week at training and conferences representing the City as well as their State organizations. It is rewarding to see our department directors in leadership positions in their State organizations as well as local and regional leadership positions. I am very sincere when I tell you all that I am honored to work with this team and I sincerely appreciate their support, as well as yours.

In the spirit of returning to normalcy, I am off to see my grandson for a couple of days. Have a fabulous weekend and we will see you all next week!