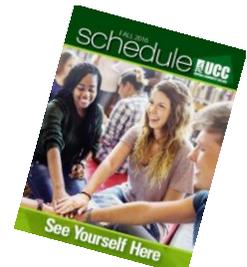


Friday August 12, 2016

Good Friday afternoon everyone! It appears our lower than average weather has gone for a while and we will be looking at high 90s for Fair week. Warmer weather will not have too dramatic an impact on the attendance. We will accommodate folks, contractor work on the Highway 138 project this week and most of the transportation corridor that could go back to work. We appreciate ODOT taking this week into account in their schedule. People caught busses or road them directly through the 138 project. Work continued on Spruce this week but had little impact on traffic as the work zone moved southward away from Oak Avenue.



Early in the week Chiefs Burge and Timm and I met with folks from Umpqua Training and Employment, Fire District II, Bay Cities Ambulance, UCC and The Ford Family Foundation to talk about the ongoing impacts on first responders from the October 1 tragedy. While there clearly has been some impact on organizations, it does not seem to be quite as bad as it was in some communities after similar community tragedies. There is a shortage of qualified paramedics and there are ongoing post traumatic issues that continue to have the need to be addressed. UCC has EMT and Paramedic programs and part of our discussion centered around how all of us could work together to ensure a steady supply of qualified students make it into programs at UCC and we continue to meet our employment needs through those programs. We also talked about the First Responder Foundation non-profit organization that was established to help with ongoing issues surrounding our first responders.



Thursday the Public Works Commission met to discuss four project bid awards, an engineering services contract and IGA with RUSA. The bid awards are recommendations to Council for the Deer Creek Trail and Parking Lot (layout attached), Cascade Court Sewer/Storm separation project, and two Harvard Avenue Storm projects. In addition there is an engineering contract recommendation for Garden Valley at Stewart Parkway to evaluate the potential for a right turn (heading east) on Garden Valley. Each of the recommendations was unanimous and you will see them on your upcoming City Council and/or Urban Renewal agendas. As part of the sewer/storm separation, we will also need to enter into an IGA with RUSA which is on your agenda to allow the City Manager to negotiate and enter into the agreement. It is very efficient to work on these types of projects together with the other utilities and agencies so that inconvenience to the citizens is kept to a minimum and cost efficiencies can be gained. Nikki and her Public Works staff continue to do a great job coordinating these projects.

Thursday evening the Rotary Spray Park/Playground fundraising concluded with a generous gross receipts sharing activity at O'Toole's. Many folks from the community attended with a portion of all proceeds going to the Rotary Foundation for matching funds for the Spray Park. I would like to once again thank Dan Clark from Morning

Rotary who personally spearheaded the fundraising along with co-chair Stacey Crowe. Dan was instrumental in pushing the fundraising effort well beyond the original goal of \$75,000. I would also like to thank Jennifer and Casey O'Toole for their generous contribution to our efforts by hosting the event last evening. Many businesses and groups have stepped up during this Rotary campaign to help us put this great project in community perspective. We have one additional grant application under consideration for the project which we hope will put us over the top and allow us to move forward. And to that end, we were also notified that our grant application to completely renovate the restrooms at the Stewart Park pavilion above the half shell has made it through the first round of review and will continue to be considered in September for funding. Kudos to Barbara Taylor for working on that grant application with Nikki and putting us in line for the potential state parks grant funding.



HR and our public safety folks are in the middle of recruiting right now. Police department folks and HR have been interviewing police officer candidates for the last two days. We are in the process of backfilling positions that were vacated after promotions in the wake of some retirements. We have a pretty good candidate pool so we hope to fill a number of the vacant positions. We had three long-term Police Department employees retire this summer, Sergeant Aaron Dunbar after 29 years of service, Sergeant Bryan Oelrich after 24 years of service and Officer Roger Childers with 28 years. To step up and fill the Sergeant positions, two of our Corporals were promoted; 14 year veteran Dennis Chrisenberg and 10 year veteran Jeremy Sanders. To round out the promotions 14 year Officer Todd Crouse and Master Officer Doug Walton with 15 years of service were promoted to the open Corporal positions.

As a result of the relocation of one of our firefighters to Seattle, HR is now working with the Fire Department to fill one firefighter position. Once this position is filled we will be back to full staff. During the last year we backfilled our Assistant Chief position and more recently our Administrative Battalion Chief with 25 plus year veteran fire service professionals Gary Garrisi and Merrill Gonterman respectively. AC Garrisi came to us by way of Yuba City and BC Gonterman arrived by way of the Portland Fire Bureau. Both gentlemen have been great additions to our management team.



With a recent retirement within the ranks of our Parks team, and with an additional potential retirement, HR Director John Van Winkle, Public Works Director Nikki Messenger and I have been evaluating the current organizational structure through which we provide park maintenance and administrative services and are developing a proposal that we will bring to Council for consideration at your next meeting. We have been without a horticulturist position since 2011 and the service demands have increased since that time. During this transition, we want to make sure we are looking towards our future needs. I will likely propose a structure that has a small current year budget impact and will need to carry forward into future budget periods. This position is

my highest service priority that has not yet been reinstated from the recessionary reductions.

I hope everyone has a great weekend. Enjoy the fair, some other local activities or maybe a trip up the river. Stay cool.

**Deer Creek Trail and Parking Lot**

