

Friday October 23, 2015

Good Friday afternoon everyone! I hope things have settled down for all of you and that some semblance of normalcy is returning to your everyday lives. Once again I would like to say how proud I have been of individuals and businesses in our community for how positively they have responded to October First and for the support they continue to provide to the families and those impacted. The folks at UCC have begun the healing process and need all of our support to move forward.

As I indicated last week, the Stephens Street project from Stewart Parkway to Newton Creek is for the most part complete. Pictured below is the newly installed marked, signalized mid-block crossing that is located at the transit stops on Stephens Street near the Cow Creek Tribal Administrative facilities. This is the first cross walk of its kind to be constructed within the City limits. Other major improvements completed as part of this project included removal and replacement of ADA ramps at each street intersection throughout the area and the grind/inlay of two inches of asphalt. The project was funded in part through the City's Transportation Fund and in part through the City's Urban Renewal Agency.



Brown Construction, our contractor for the Oak/Washington project has moved to Washington Avenue and is moving forward with the colored concrete intersections at Jackson and Main as well as the intersection and sidewalk work at Kane Street. The river themed intersection pictured below is probably now my favorite. I have been very impressed with the quality of work and it is great to see the continued progress. Gary Leif pointed out at our EDC meeting this week that the diagonal parking is being used constantly and that the option to have that alternative in downtown has been very well received. The weather change has created a couple of challenges but hopefully we will not experience too much rain during the days to come (just at night).



Our Human Resource personnel and Public Safety folks recently completed the interview processes for a police officer position, a fire fighter position and an Assistant Chief position in the Fire Department. We hope to complete the necessary background information review and make some offers in the coming week or two. The processes to hire new City employees is both challenging and exciting. We look forward to welcoming three new faces to our team in the very near future!

A number of activities have begun to take place to honor the victims of October First and also to enhance the fundraising opportunities for UCC Strong and UCC Relief Fund. Pictured below is the band shell which was decorated to hold a community memorial ceremony to honor the nine individuals who lost their lives, now collectively honored as the Umpqua Nine. Family members and friends came to the microphone to talk about their loved ones and thank the community for their help and support.



There are a number of fundraising activities going on this weekend beginning this evening at Jacoby Auditorium and then throughout the weekend at the Half Shell in Stewart Park. I hope you have an opportunity to take part in some of the activities going on throughout central Douglas County.

Have a great weekend everyone! We will see you at your regularly scheduled meeting Monday night....and *again at 7:30 a.m. Thursday morning* for our Special Council Meetings regarding the CDBG Grant Funds for Head Start!