

Friday July 22, 2016

Good Friday afternoon everyone. I have missed the last couple Friday's out on vacation and training, so it great to put together these random thoughts for your Friday message. Last week I attended the annual Oregon City/County Managers Association which was very well attended by folks from throughout the state. It is interesting to discuss major topics of concern and opportunities many of us share, regardless of city size or location. With some minor exceptions for the metro area, our challenges and opportunities are very similar. Most communities are attempting to proactively deal with transportation funding, utility infrastructure funding, wetland development concerns, state and federal regulatory processes and issues surrounding housing, affordable housing and homelessness. I don't believe we've found any one size fits all answers, but I am encouraged to see many of what we are directly working on are considered good options and best practices and that we should continue to move forward with these opportunities in our communities.

I had an opportunity to be on Inside Douglas County Wednesday to chat about the ribbon cutting ceremony for the downtown project as well as other projects and activities going on in and around Roseburg. It was a good opportunity to update listeners about the progress we are making on City and jointly sponsored projects. As you are all



aware, the Highway 138 corridor project is continuing and really beginning to take shape so folks can see the final alignment and locations of different components of the project. Next door, our Spruce/Parrott project is also taking shape. The initial project work started adjacent to Oak Avenue and is moving southward towards Mosher. The project is a complete rebuild of the street section and many of the utilities. The project is scheduled for completion around the same time as the Highway 138 work

which is prior to the end of the calendar year. I believe you all receive updates on the 138 project, but if not, the link can be found at www.roseburg138.com .

On Thursday, Chief Burge and Sheriff Hanlin spoke with Kyle Bailey on Inside Douglas County to talk about the recent tragedies around the country and world and how it impacts us locally. I appreciate their concerns regarding our community's safety and appreciate their additional concerns for our law enforcement personnel. Councilor Zielinski (who doubles as the Sheriff's Community Outreach Coordinator) sent us a couple of photos showing community support our local law enforcement is receiving publicly around the area. You can listen to the podcast at 541 Radio if you missed it.



This week we sent a grant application to a local foundation that hopefully will put us over the top for funding needed to construct the spray park/playground in the Fir Grove section of Stewart Park. We were told this week a local individual made a significant pledge to the Rotary community campaign bringing the local support total to almost \$105,000!!!! That is an amazing effort and the community support is very gratifying. The project will provide a family gathering space in our park as well as a safe, accessible water activity and playground. The project was identified in our Park Master Plan and it now appears that the money necessary to fund it is in reach. As you might recall, we received a \$300,000 Oregon State Parks grant that provided the base funding. We have allocated some Park Improvement funds, Stewart Trust funds as well as the community funds to this project. We will keep you posted on the foundation grant application process and look forward to breaking ground on this project.



Public Works Director Nikki Messenger indicated the storm drainage project on Garden Valley/Fairmount has encountered rock. The work in Garden Valley has been happening at night, but the rock hammering is very loud and we have received a few complaints. We will switch to daytime work next week. The downside is that traffic will be impacted next week with Garden Valley down to one lane each direction in that vicinity from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This will affect the morning commute but should be finished before the evening commute each day. We will continue to work with the neighborhood to mitigate the impacts of the construction.

I would like to remind you that Music on the Half Shell in Stewart Park is in full swing with Riders in the Sky and Asleep at the Wheel performing next Tuesday. Tonight and tomorrow at 7:00 p.m. is a youth theatre production of Beauty and the Beast that is being hosted at Riverbend live in Winston. It looks like a great weather weekend, so I hope you can get out and enjoy. And I guess I should mention that we are welcoming the Class of 1976 back to town this weekend for their (and my) 40th class reunion.



Have a great weekend everyone!