

Friday September 11, 2015

September 11- Please remember those who fell! A solemn day, but a day to remember how much we appreciate our opportunities.

Good Friday afternoon everyone! I have to say I was really enjoyed the cooler weather we had last week, but it appears about a week back in the 90s is what's in store for us. The weather is good for project construction, and we certainly have a number of projects going. As we move into our third month downtown it is clear that traffic has dropped a little. I try to go downtown and support our local businesses as much as possible and I encourage all of you to support them as well. Work is in full swing at the major intersections on Oak at



Jackson, Main and Kane. Staff and the contractor are trying to be proactive with detours and traffic control, so please be patient. The same goes for the ODOT Highway 138 project which continues to move southward from the Deer Creek Bridge. Again you can always find information and updates on the City's website at <http://www.cityofroseburg.org/news-and-events/news/washingtonoakkane-improvements/> and the ODOT website at <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/REGION3/Pages/roseburg138.aspx>.

On Tuesday I attended the monthly meeting of the local Kiwanis Club. It is a fairly small group, but they are very engaged in community activities, especially those related to our youth. It is always a pleasure to share our story and talk about the opportunities and challenges we are facing as an organization and a community. I look forward to engaging with our service organizations that provide so much support in Roseburg. We all say it a lot, but Roseburg really is one of the most giving communities around and I am very proud of the work the service organizations do.

Last week ODOT held an open house on the Interchange Area Management Plans (IAMP) for exits 124 and 125. A number of staff attended the open house and also participated on the technical advisory committee. Some of us met this week to evaluate what we believe are the best alternatives for both the operation of the interstate and the operation of Harvard Avenue and Garden Valley Boulevard at or near the interchanges. We will be updating our Transportation System Plan (TSP) over the course of the next year. The IAMP planning will provide the basis for the TSP around these two interchanges, so it is critical that we provide the necessary input at this point in the process. Whatever decisions are made, the City will need to consider revisions to some of our existing transportation policies and likely re-evaluate our priorities in these two

corridors. Our staff is looking beyond the standard 20 year planning horizon as many of the improvements being considered will have much longer term transportation implications.

Thursday I met with Roseburg Superintendent Gerry Washburn and UCC interim President Dr. Rita Cavin to begin a community conversation about working together to better serve the greater Roseburg area. Education and work force development are key elements in community development and we have not worked as closely with these two organizations as I would like. I believe we can leverage resources, both human and financial, and work together to resolve some of our related issues. We were able to share insights into what we believe we need to work on and have committed to meet regularly in an effort to address those common concerns.

Today I will be meeting with the Trust Officer from US Bank regarding a local foundation. The small foundation provides grants for kid related activities in our community. It is an opportunity to chat directly with the decision makers for the trust and possibly participate in some future decision making for this organization. I am also attending a workshop relating to Seismic Rehabilitation Grants for public safety buildings. We are hoping to apply during the next round of funding for resources that could help us upgrade Fire Stations 2 and 3 to meet current seismic guidelines for first response public safety buildings. The next application schedule will likely begin in early 2016 but we need to know early if our facilities may qualify so that we can make sure any preliminary work is done well in advance of the next application date.

On Wednesday next week representatives from the Portland Trailblazers and some of their business affiliates will be in town to “share” some healthy student messages and to generate interest in the Blazers around southern Oregon. They will be holding a couple of assemblies at Roseburg Public Schools and then capping the day off with an outdoor event from 4:00-6:00 p.m. in Stewart Park near the southern most softball field in the parking lot just northwest of Legion Field. The event is free and the community is invited (see the press release at the end of this message). Mayor Rich is attending the flag raising ceremony to kick off the late afternoon event.



On a personal note, I was very appreciative of the Second Tuesday editorial written this week by Bentley Gilbert. The primary message to me was that our organization is committed to civic engagement and our community. I spent a couple of hours talking with Bentley about many things, foremost being how lucky I felt having had the

opportunity to grow up here and now to be in position of leadership in my hometown. A few of the “ideas” included in the piece were clearly not mine alone, and I would like to once again take an opportunity to thank Council for the opportunity you have given me to lead this group, and acknowledge what a great team we have working on behalf of Roseburg. Have a great weekend everyone. I will see you all Monday evening.

Following is a media release regarding the Rip City Relay on September 16th:



MEDIA CONTACT:

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“RIP CITY RELAY” RALLIES IN ROSEBURG ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

WHO

Roseburg Mayor **Larry Rich**

Trail Blazers television broadcasters **Mike Barrett and Mike Rice**

Trail Blazers mascot **Blaze the Trail Cat** and members of the **BlazerDancers**

WHAT

The **Portland Trail Blazers** and **Moda** are excited to begin the third annual Rip City Relay. A team of Trail Blazers ambassadors and staff will embark on a week-long journey from Sept. 14-18 around the state of Oregon, engaging with Trail Blazers fans all along the way. The first two Rip City Relays visited 15 communities in Eastern and Central Oregon, and along the Oregon Coast, all to showcase the Trail Blazers as “*Oregon’s Team.*”

This year, Roseburg will mark the third stop on the relay (Sept. 16). Trail Blazers personalities and Moda representatives will also activate the communities in Klamath Falls (Sept. 14), Medford (Sept. 15), Albany (Sept. 17) and Woodburn (Sept. 18) as the relay team moves along the I-5 corridor back to Portland.

Supporting partners of this year’s relay include **Bi-Mart** and **Energy Trust of Oregon**. Energy Trust of Oregon, a new partner of the Trail Blazers that has been instrumental in Rose Quarter sustainability

efforts, will be handing out free limited edition Trail Blazers shirts as part of a free home energy review at all stops on the relay.

Trailblazers.com/ripcityrelay will provide updates and information all along the relay, and fans can follow the relay's progress on Twitter @RipCityRelay and by using the hashtag #RipCityRelay.

WHEN/WHERE

Wednesday, Sept. 16

7:45 AM

School Assembly – John C Fremont Middle School (850 W. Keady Ct., Roseburg, OR 97471)

Trail Blazers personalities take over a school assembly for an hour of flair, fanfare and fun.

9:30 AM

Basketball Clinics – Fullerton Elem. (2560 W. Bradford Ct., Roseburg, OR 97471)

Trail Blazers camp coaches take over PE classes to teach local kids how to play like the pros.

4 PM

Rip City Flag Raising – Stewart Park (2058 W. Stewart Park Dr., Roseburg, OR 97471)

Roseburg Mayor Larry Rich joins Trail Blazers and Moda representatives to tip off the Rip City Fair with opening ceremonies in the park.

Rip City Fair – Stewart Park (2058 W. Stewart Park Dr., Roseburg, OR 97471)

Fans are invited to this free community gathering from 4-6 p.m. featuring fun for the whole family, including the opportunity to interact and play basketball with Trail Blazers personalities, take photos with the 1977 NBA Championship trophy, and win game tickets and other prizes.

