



City Manager's Weekend Update

10/27/2017

Welcome to the inaugural weekly City Manager update. In an effort to be transparent and make more information available to the general public I will be attempting to share weekly updates of projects and activities going on with the City of Ontario. I hope you find this informative and helpful.

Oregon Business Development Department

Oregon Business Development made a pop up visit in Ontario on Thursday. They brought with them many of their top leaders and they met with community leaders all over Malheur County. Our staff spoke to them about several opportunities. We have some great ideas to pursue.

Strategic Planning – Our effort to work with all our community institutions on a strategic plan is going well. Two more community focus groups were conducted this week. We have now completed 10 focus groups, which is 20% of our identified groups. If you know of any existing group, please let us know and we will get someone there to collect some data.

Planning and Community Development

Staff is reviewing 18 applications for issuing building permits. We issued 3 permits this past week. We have also received and are reviewing 32 applications for new housing within the city. Staff is continuing processing 4 land use applications.

We have provided information on an economic development lead.

Police

Police staff responded to a very heavy call load of over 250 calls for service this week. That's an average of 1.5 calls per hour 24 hours per day.

Staff is in the final process of applying for the Child Passenger Safety Grant and the Three Flags Traffic Safety Grant. We also received notification that this year's bulletproof vest match grant was awarded for \$3,414.

We received a donated Ford Ranger Code Enforcement Truck from another Oregon law enforcement agency. It is an older vehicle but only has 54,000 miles and is in great condition. This vehicle will be used for our part-time ordinance officer and will extend the life of our current fleet.

The second suspect from the shooting that occurred in June was arrested in Las Vegas, Nevada. Ontario officers were able to determine where they believed he was and worked with the US Marshal Service to arrest him. He was extradited to Oregon and is in Malheur County Jail.

K9 Officer Rex has completed his final week of training. He is progressing very well and all signs are that he is an excellent candidate. He is scheduled for his first attempt at Oregon certification next Friday. He needs a 100% on his test and it often takes a few tries. He did take the Idaho certification test this week and passed so that was great practice for his big day.

Fire and Rescue

The new McDonalds is progressing and was inspected by the Fire Department twice this past week. Also, improvements at Kraft Heinz were inspected. We really appreciate having Kraft-Heinz in Ontario! Another fire sprinkler system damaged due to snow collapse also received an inspection.

Three crews checked and installed more smoke detectors in our community for one of the Fire Department drill nights. They also trained on building construction.

A high school senior rode along with Fire & Rescue to prepare for his senior project. The Malheur County Development Coalition had a group of students tour our station and learn about fire safety. Our crew visited Aiken elementary and taught 40 students about fire safety.

This week we responded to numerous motor vehicle accidents, one with a powerline down on the car.

Recreation

We held the league championships of 5th and 6th grade tackle football at the Ontario High School Stadium Saturday, October 21 - We had 362 paid customers over the age of 12 and many others. It was a long, cold, rainy day, but our Ontario teams WON!! Good Job Boys and Girl!! We had a really good season!!

We have 48 kids registered for youth volleyball that will be playing in the morning for their final day!!

The City is hosting a **Haunted House at the Ontario Aquatic Center** to raise money for the Splash Pad. Thank you to all the volunteers! It opens Saturday (28th) night at 6 p.m. Join us for the event on Saturday, Sunday or Monday evening 6 - 10 pm. The cost for the haunted house is \$8 per person. There will be a photo booth inside so bring your phone. There will also be a children's carnival for donations during the afternoon. Please support the splash pad by attending the carnival or the haunted house. A big thanks to Freddy Rodriguez for all of his dedication and hard work.

We have three 3rd - 4th grade and two 5th -6th grade basketball teams this year. Practice started on Monday, October 23, and league play begins on November 4th. Girls 3rd - 6th grade and K - 2nd grade coed basketball registration began on Wednesday.

Public Works

Field Service (including streets, sidewalks, water distribution, and wastewater collection)

Cross walk taping is ongoing throughout the community. Approximately 75% is completed.

Roughly 40% of catch basin cleaning throughout the town is complete in preparation for the winter season.

The East Idaho Tree Planter Project continues on the north side of East Idaho and is moving forward. Citizens will notice many trees that have been taken down. These trees were infected by a borer bug that was killing the trees. The new landscaping will reduce the maintenance cost by using rock instead of ground cover. Attractive tree grates will be placed in concrete forms and in the spring maple trees will be planted. The City had planned to plant the trees in the fall, but the temperature changed so fast that we risk losing many of the trees if they are planted right now. Over the next few years all of the trees and planter strips will be re-landscaped and replaced.

Water

Water inventories are stable and in good shape. Water demand has dropped significantly as irrigation seasons end.

Wastewater

Currently we are not discharging to Skyline Farms, irrigation season is over and we are building inventory at the wastewater plant prior to beginning discharge to the Snake River at the end of this month.

Parks and Cemetery

Irrigation has stopped in the parks and cemeteries, crews are blowing out underground sprinkler systems prior to freezing weather.

This is the last week for flowers for the downtown pots, they will be removed and evergreen plants placed in their stead. **Andrews Seed** deserves a large thank you for helping support this effort in the downtown area!

Engineering

Engineering is working on the SRCI lower lift station study.

Adam J. Brown
City Manager