

## CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE—August 29, 2019

Prepared for Mayor and Councilors. Please contact Steve Powers, City Manager, for additional information.

### ***At Your Service!***

The Fire Department's response to the pallet facility fire contained the damage and loss to the yard and equipment. Saving the building saved jobs. The business will be back in operation, according to the business owner.

### ***Upcoming Issues***

The Union Gospel Mission will be hosting a forum on sidewalk conduct on September 4 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. In addition, the Good Neighbor Partnership, convened by Urban Development, will be meeting on September 11. A third information opportunity is being considered for September 13. The forum at UGM is intended for those who would be most affected by changes to conduct that is permissible on public sidewalks and rights-of-way. At the forums and Good Neighbor Partnership meeting, there will be information pieces shared, City staff will talk about the draft ordinance, and there will be an opportunity for questions.

Staff has been working with the Salem Area Lodging Association on the tourism promotion area ordinance. The tentative schedule is for first reading of the ordinance to be on October 14, 2019. The public hearing and second reading will be October 28, 2019, with a January 1, 2020 effective date.

Oregon is one of many states that allows for public and non-profit health care facilities to use tax-exempt bonds to pay for capital improvements. Salem's hospital facility authority has assisted the Capitol Manor and Salem Hospital. The City acts as a conduit and approves the Authority's issuance of bonds. The City has no liability; City approval is only necessary to comply with IRS regulations. City Council approved the Capital Manor bonding in August 2018. Salem Health is planning on requesting assistance with its improvements.

### ***Health***

The HIV Alliance is planning on starting a needle exchange program this fall in the Salem area. The HIV Alliance has a two-year grant to begin work in the Salem area. Salem Health will dispose of the needles. The HIV Alliance will provide sanitary needles in exchange for dirty needles. In 2018, the HIV Alliance provided the exchange service in Curry, Coos, Josephine, Lane, and Douglas counties.

## ***Management***

Public agencies have been victims of ransomware attacks. Last week, two cities in Texas had their IT data held hostage. Salem's Information Technology Department has been on top of this issue and has not seen any suspicious activities on the City's network. We are also reviewing the need for cyber insurance.

## ***Welcoming and Livable Community***

On Friday, September 13, 2019, the City will be hosting a Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration and City Open House. The event is in partnership with Enlace Cross Cultural Community Project. The event is an opportunity to connect with Salem's Latinx community, hear from our neighbors and share information. Attendees will learn what the City has been up to and how they can connect with City services. If the inaugural event is a success, we'll look at repeating for other groups within the city. Amador Aguilar from Enlace holds events on the second Friday of the month at different locations with the intent of increasing community connections; the City is the spot to visit on September 13. The open house will include a welcome, folkloric dances, music, and a building tour.

On September 6, Center 50+ will be hosting an event to share results from the AARP Friendly Communities project.

## ***Partnerships***

Work on a continuum of care organization for Marion and Polk counties continues. In fact, the Mid-Willamette Homeless Initiative is transitioning to development council to guide the formation of the continuum of care. A memorandum of agreement will be brought to City Council in September.

The Police Department participated in a workshop convened by the United Way with ARCHES to provide practical tools and important information about how to engage with homeless for better outcomes. The workshop provided tips and resources for when homeless people enter businesses or interact with employees.

## ***Library***

Rumor control. The Salem Public Library turns no one away because of status. Salem Public Library is one of the most used day centers in the city. The computer lab and chairs among the book stacks are very popular. A library for all will continue at the temporary location.

I have signed the agreement for phase 2 for the design services for the improvement project. Phase 2 includes design development and construction documents necessary for project bidding. The design, construction documents and permitting is scheduled to be completed for construction to begin March 2020

Thanks for reading,  
Steve