

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

At Your Service

Center 50+ is delivering wellness services through a mobile outreach vehicle named the *WOW Van*. Front porch and socially distanced visits from the Wellness on Wheels (WOW) Van include fitness, nutrition, mobility and wellness programming, activities, lifelong learning instruction, social checks ins, and technology tutoring.

Jobs Well Done

The City, through the leadership of the Finance Department, has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association for the comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019. The City has received this recognition for 23 consecutive years. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government. The City's CAFR has been judged by an impartial panel to demonstrate a constructive spirit of full disclosure that clearly communicates our financial story and motivates potential users and user groups to read the CAFR.

Boards and Commissions

We are pushing out through our social media sites and our community partners (City Club, rotaries, Chamber) this message:

We need you! We have openings in groups that advise City Council in key areas affecting our community. What does it take? A few hours a month for a virtual gathering of others with similar interests. Are you interested in urban planning? Affordable housing? Human rights? Parks? Want to be a part of decisions at the Salem Public Library or Center 50+? You can also impact where you live or own property through urban renewal boards. We have openings in Downtown, North Gateway, and West Salem Urban Renewal Areas. Find more detail [here](#).

Help spread the word.

COVID-19

Under the City's emergency order, I have approved a process for allowing temporary patios, including heat and covering, for areas adjacent to bars and restaurants citywide. Permit and inspection fees for the temporary patios will be waived. The process was developed by Community Development and Fire Departments to ensure public safety is protected while assisting food and drink establishments with expanded capacity during COVID restrictions. The process includes flexible standards on setbacks and lot coverage so that covered patios can be installed/expanded, reducing the likelihood of a public hearing process and providing a clear, consistent path for approvals. There will be checks to ensure the temporary improvements do not become permanent without re-submittal. The fee waivers are for COVID-related needs only.

We have maxed out our \$4.9 million share of the federal CARES Act funds that the state legislature allocated to cities. The Oregon Secretary of State did a real-time review of local government reimbursement requests of CARES Act funds. These Coronavirus Relief Funds must be used for non-budgeted COVID-related expenditures incurred between March 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020. The Secretary of State's auditors looked at a sample of reimbursement requests totaling \$21.7 million from 32 jurisdictions, accounting for 47 percent of the total requested reimbursements. Our submissions passed two reviews and none of our submitted expenditures have been rejected. The state is projecting unspent CRF funds by other cities. We are in a good position to receive additional funding if the state reallocates the unspent portion.

Downtown

City work continues downtown with special care not to disrupt an already challenging business climate.

Streetscape improvements have been underway on Court Street from Front to Liberty. The sidewalk work is now complete, with just landscaping remaining. Streetscape work is also underway on the north side of State Street, in coordination with construction of the Nishioka building. Construction is underway on State Street east of Commercial for the 2-way conversion project. This construction has been mostly in the bulb-outs. City engineering staff has worked very closely with the businesses impacted by these two projects to minimize disruption.

Fires

We are having our water consulting engineers conduct a turbidity analysis at Geren Island. The study will include the entire watershed. Turbidity is not good for the slow-sand filters at the water treatment plant.

I serve on Governor Brown's Wildfire Economic Recovery Teams (ERTs) for the Mid-Valley. State Representative Noble and State Representative Alonso Leon co-convene the meetings. Wildfire ERT priorities:

- Identify state programs that impact recovery and ways we can streamline assistance/regulation.
- Assess and receive feedback on applicable federal programs.
- Review federal assessments of impacts.
- Identify opportunities to rebuild long-term infrastructure.
- Identify and elevate the community needs such as resources, communications, policies to specific county and the state.

This week, the Santiam Hospital Service Integration Team (SIT) reported they are currently helping 695 families (1417 adults; 239 children ages 0-5; 421 children ages 6- 18). Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency, in partnership with SIT, Marion County, and community-based organizations, is focusing on households with limited-to-no identified housing opportunities. 38 percent were unsheltered prior to the fire. Those with income usually have low/fixed income such as SSI/SSDI. Many households are also expressing a desire to stay in the Santiam area which has low housing stock. To date the team has identified 85 households of concern and have housed 14.

Housing and Shelter

With COVID likely continuing through the winter, additional toilets, hand wash stations, trash removal, and drinking water are planned for Wallace Marine and Cascades Gateway parks. I will be recommending a budget amendment to fund mitigation improvements and to support the vehicle camping program. As of mid-October, there are eight vehicle camping sites open to all and seven sites open to only fire evacuees. Of the 15 sites, 13 can accommodate one or two RVs.

Nonprofit outreach providers are in touch with campers to connect to services and encourage alternative locations.

ARCHES day center has added new lockers for storage.

Staff are looking at other locations for managed shelter sites. A significant challenge is identifying suitable locations and nonprofit operator capacity.

Our Homeless Rental Assistance Program continues to connect unsheltered residents with services and supports to transition to more than 260 individuals to housing. We work directly with local affordable housing operators, owned by nonprofits and private developers, to provide grants, loans and tax incentives for additional housing units in our community.

The Public Works Department collects abandoned shopping carts when we receive complaints or when collection of an observed cart does not interfere with assigned work. This only applies to carts that are empty or have items that are clearly garbage. Carts are stored at Public Works for at least 30 days and after providing notice to any retrieval service. Very few of the carts collected are properly marked/identified as required by *Oregon Revised Statutes* and *Salem Revised Code*. There is one local retrieval service that contracts with a few of the grocery store chains and they are generally good about collecting the carts for those vendors. The rest of the carts are scrapped.

Library

The renovation project has progressed very well, and a significant amount of the high cost-risk work is completed. The Council Subcommittee prioritized two major changes – entry improvements and Anderson Room upgrades. The Library Foundation has once again generously offered to donate \$125,000 to help fund the entry improvements. Also, the contractor, HSW, has agreed to release a portion of the contractor's contingency to assist in funding these improvements. I have approved funding Anderson Room upgrades that include improved lobby finishes and opening the room to provide visibility upon arrival for users. The cost of the change is \$74,308. I have approved a complete upgrade of the entry from the parking garage. The existing tunnel entrance will be replaced with an open plaza-type setting with new lighting and seating to create a meeting space for visitors. The cost of the front entry improvement is \$566,885. These changes will further improve the Library and enhance the user experience. These alternates had been prioritized should funding become available through project savings. The guaranteed maximum price for the project remains \$17,875,918 (Includes preconstruction services).

Natural Environment Stewardship

For the 12 months ending September 30, 2020, the City completed 5,824 erosion control inspections on 869 construction sites. There were 224 enforcement actions, and all deficiencies cited in the actions have been corrected. The City continues to work with contractors, developers, and engineers to develop and implement measures that minimize sediment and pollutants from entering streams. The collaboration begins at plan review and continues through construction.

The City has received \$40,000 for settlement of the Gatti tree pruning violation.

Upcoming Issues

At an upcoming council meeting will be a recommendation to have first reading on a code amendment to change the public art spending limitations. The Public Art Commission is recommending a change to increase the limitation on maintenance spending. With an aging collection, maintenance is becoming increasingly important. A critical example is the need for a thorough maintenance evaluation of the Eco-Earth Ball. An evaluation is needed to determine restoration costs and to seek funding.

On the November 9 agenda will be lease between the City and the Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency for the Arches building at 615 Commercial NE. The City has purchased the building using CDBG and Urban Renewal funds.

Thanks for reading,
Steve