

CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE—July 9, 2019

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

At Your Service!

Salem Park Ranger Mike Zieker swore in seven Salem Junior Rangers in the first edition of Junior Ranger Camp. This three-day camp for nine to eleven year olds is filled with fun, active, educational activities designed to instill and inspire a lifetime of adventure and stewardship of parks and natural areas and how to enjoy parks in a safe, ethical way so everyone can enjoy our parks, now and in the future.

Strong and Diverse Economy

From July 2018 through June 2019, the City issued 2,355 building permits, the highest 12-month total in the past seven years. The total includes new residential and commercial construction, remodels, demolitions, and smaller projects that require a permit. Single family and duplex permits were 547, the highest number since 2007 and a 38 percent increase from last year. Over the past 24 months, 25 accessory dwelling permits have been issued.

The Oregon Employment Department recently released employment market data. For the Salem metropolitan statistical area, including all of Marion and Polk counties, employment grew 3.5 percent from May 2018 to May 2019. Salem's job growth was the highest for Oregon's eight metropolitan statistical areas.

Upcoming Issues

City Council's library relocation committee will have a recommendation for the July 22 council meeting for a temporary location for the library during the seismic retrofit project. In addition to the relocation committee, the Salem Human Rights Commission also has reviewed the location. The site meets the relocation criteria, and there are no alternative locations that meet the criteria and project schedule. The HRC has committed to working with the Salem Public Library to ensure the temporary space accessible, welcoming, and inclusive for all.

Safe, Reliable, and Efficient Infrastructure

The City has more than 180 requests for over 800 new streetlights. The requests are ranked based upon availability of sidewalks, proximity of transit stops, cost, and proximity of existing streetlights, traffic volumes, and crime rate. The projects that rank the highest are those that have no sidewalks, no existing streetlights in the vicinity and have higher traffic volumes. Each year the highest priority project and some lower ranking projects in the vicinity are selected.

Thanks for reading,
Steve