

CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE — May 29, 2020

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

At Your Service

Praise for the City's sidewalk replacement team,

Just a note to let you know that your sidewalk replacement crew with Scott Eaton (Project Leader) was awesome. Scott would continue to give me updates on the status of the project (over two months) to help me make decisions on how to accomplish what I needed in a timely fashion. At the intersection of Gerth Ave NW & Franklin Ave NW there were multiple issues to be resolved and Scott was able to resolve each one to the homeowners' satisfaction. Even though Scott had all this going on, he maintained a professional attitude as he not only had to oversee his crew but deal with each homeowner.

Another,

I wanted to correspond with you about Scott Eaton and the crew here in the Kingwood neighborhood in West Salem. They have been way above and beyond accommodating to the neighborhood. They have made accommodations with parking and communicating times and services promptly and efficiently. They have been polite and happy to all of us around here. Scott has made sure that the safety of the neighborhood sidewalks is a priority as my elderly mother has been staying with me during the pandemic and needs extra assistance getting around. As soon as the trees were taken care of the crew took charge and created beautiful walk ways and an amazing driveway in such a quick time. I am so appreciative of these guys as the drive way I once had clipped my bumper always upon entering and departing my home and now I am so excited that once it dries it will be drivable. Thank you for doing such an amazing job hiring people that make a hard situation easy to live with.

Budget

City staff will be meeting with the Salem Area Chamber of Commerce's Public Policy group on June 4 to discuss the City budget, financial forecasting, and building and development fees.

Council Follow-up

Due to delays in the door hardware system (like a hotel key card system), Redwood Crossing won't be opening until July. Door hardware and doors

have been a delay challenge for Salem Housing Authority projects during COVID-19. Also, Arches won't have funding to staff Redwood Crossing until July.

Community Development

The new Fork 40 Food Court on State Street across from Ritter's is opening on May 29. It's extremely exciting to see these new food businesses (one of them pictured below) opening during the COVID19 crisis. This building is going to have multiple food vendors, a bar, five units of housing upstairs, and escape rooms in the basement. The apartments are all studio apartments and will range in price from around \$900 up to about \$1300 a month. Kristin Retherford is looking forward to Fork 40's wrecking and other rooms, where you can break fragile items with baseball bats, pipe wrenches and other tools.



A Mill Creek business, Henningsen Cold Storage, has been purchased by Lineage Logistics, LLC, the world's largest provider of temperature-controlled logistics solutions. Henningsen, based in Hillsboro, has two locations and more than 550,000 square feet of cold storage in Salem. Their flagship location in the mid-valley is located in the Mill Creek Corporate Center at 4301 Henningsen Ct. SE with approximately 350,000 sq. ft. on 35.04 acres. The site will accommodate expansion plans for up to 1,000,000 sq. ft. of space. The second location is on the campus of the former Norpac Foods and includes more than 200,000 sq. ft. of cold storage and loading space. The Norpac Foods assets were purchased out of bankruptcy Lineage in early 2020.

Staff are reviewing how to safely provide portions of downtown streets for outdoor dining. The space would help offset some of the loss of indoor dining space, allow social distancing, and create a fun setting.

Projects

There is a significant algal bloom at Detroit Reservoir. We have changed our public water advisory to Algae Watch. Our drinking water treatment equipment, materials (powdered activated carbon and chlorine), and processes are ready for when toxins are detected in the river.

COVID-19

I have provided a letter to a legislative committee that is gathering information on COVID-19 and workers compensation. The City moved strongly and swiftly to protect our employees from COVID-19. As a self-insured City, we work with our third-party adjuster to investigate any occupational injury or illness claims, and compensability decisions are made on a case-by-case basis based on the evidence. I asked the legislative committee to consider the City's actions with personal protective equipment, policies, and training to protect our employees. I provided the letter in response to testimony submitted to the Committee regarding the City of Salem's safety policies specific to the COVID-19 emergency.

Thanks for reading,
Steve