

FALLS CITY NEWSLETTER

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Remembering Leon Beauchamp



The City of Falls City and the Falls City Volunteer Fire Department would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute and honor our treasured friend and mentor, Leon Beauchamp of Falls City, Oregon. Leon proudly served the Falls City community and Fire Department for over 54 years as a Fire Fighter, Fire Officer, and Public Works employee. A friend and good neighbor to many, Leon was often seen around town with his tractor helping to build pole buildings, tilling gardens, or mowing fields. He taught by example what it is to offer kindness as he and his wife, Alice, welcomed many to their home and table for meals, love and a safe place to hang out. We send our love and prayers to Leon's beloved wife Alice, his friends and his family in their time of grief.

-With love, the members of the Falls City Volunteer Fire Department.

"Good Men never die in our dreams, Because....They will always live forever in our hearts".

Sewer Rate Study – Rate Increase Imminent

As most of the community is aware, the City of Falls City was awarded a Community Development Block Grant, administered by Business Oregon, funded by the US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, and purposed to design a lagoon style sewage plant somewhere other than the High School Football Field (where the current city drain field lies). Please read on to see how you can get the real scoop on this important project.

On June 22, 2020 the City Council will meet in special session to hear the results of a Rate Study prepared by Consultant, Donovan Enterprises. The Donovan Company has over 30 years of experience consulting on utility rates, utility projects, and more. This meeting will likely result in a recommendation to the City Council for phased sewer rate increases to meet the financial burden of servicing debt on constructing the new facility. Attendance and participation at this, and all non-executive City Council meetings, is welcome (the Community Center will be open, with restrictions, for Council Meetings starting at the June 8, 2020 regular session).

Backflow Repairs Required

Each water service connection is required to have a backflow preventer installed on it, this keeps water from backing up into and contaminating the city's entire water system. The law requires these backflow devices to be inspected annually, which you pay for under "Backflow" on your water bill. The City's most recent inspection yielded approximately 150 backflow devices that are in need of repair or replacement. The Falls City Municipal Code makes it the property owner's responsibility to repair or replace inoperable backflow devices within 90 days of being advised. When advised of the number of failed devices, the Council directed City Staff to look into options to ease the burden of repair/replacement of backflow devices. If your device is one of those in question you will receive a letter with options. In short, the City Council has devised a program that will

allow for a bulk rate on repairs and the option to pay for them in 12 equal payments. Conversely, a water user may pay in-full at the time of repair, or higher their own plumber to correct any issues. Additional details will be provided in the letter if this applies to you.

City Council to Hear Spring Clean/City-Wide Garage Sale Proposal!

City Staff and our partners at Republic Services have been in communication to reschedule the Spring Clean event for Saturday, June, 27 2020! City Staff will take a proposal to hold this event and the City-Wide Garage Sale the same weekend in late June. The garage sale would start on Friday, June 26 and run through the following Sunday, June 28. If you'd like to provide support or detract for this proposal, please attend the June 8, 2020 City Council meeting!

COVID-19 Update: May 19, 2020 Special Meeting

The City Council met to discuss current and future COVID-19 measures being taken by each layer of government, and what that means for Falls City moving forward. A summary of the Council's decisions on current and future measures is available on the City's Facebook page, or on the City website: www.fallscityoregon.gov.

Utility Reserve Fee

In 2017 the City Council approved a Utility Reserve and Capital Improvement fee which shows up on your water bill as "Cap." It has come to the attention of City Staff that this charge is being applied to Water Accounts only, but holds itself out as a Capital reserve fund for Water and Sewer. Based on the language used when establishing the fee, and the stated intent to use it on both systems, City Staff must correct this charging error. It is not appropriate to use funds on the sewer system paid by one with water service only; it creates a system of subsidization that is not allowed under Oregon Local Budget Law. So, starting July 1, 2020 persons who have a water and sewer accounts will be charged a Capital Utility Fee of \$10 per (\$20 total). This will be on the June 8, 2020 City Council agenda for discussion if you'd like to provide any public comment.

CITY SCHEDULE JUNE, 2020

CITY COUNCIL MEETING:

- DATE/TIME- JUNE 8, 2020 @ 6PM
LOCATION- FALLS CITY COMMUNITY CENTER, PHONE, OR INTERNET
- COMMUNITY CENTER; 299 MILL ST. FALLS CITY, OR 97344
 - DIAL (425) 436-6370; CODE 251514
 - WEB APP FREE DOWNLOAD AT FREECONFERENCECALL.COM; MEETING CODE- MANAGER3208

COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

- CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19.

SPRING CLEAN/CITY-WIDE GARAGE SALE:

- TO BE DECIDED AT THE JUNE 8, 2020 CITY COUNCIL MEETING
- IF APPROVED, DATES WILL BE 6/26-6/28 FOR THE GARAGE SALE(S) AND 6/27 FOR THE SPRING CLEAN