

September 2009

Dear Lafayette Residents:

The City of Lafayette recently purchased new computer software to help city staff and the Yamhill County Sheriff's Office keep track of code infractions: type, address, frequency, etc. The City Council is requesting your input on code infraction enforcement. Please e-mail or call City Hall, or send e-mails to City Council members listed below with your concerns regarding code infractions and enforcement issues.

Longtime City Administrator Diane Rinks has announced her retirement. The City Council hired the Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments to help Lafayette recruit a new city administrator and the city received 142 applications. The City Council met in executive session to protect the identities of applicants on Thursday, Sept. 24, to review the top candidates and narrow down those candidates to a select few. Please let us know if you have any input on candidates' personal and professional qualifications as this very important process continues. We are striving to have a new city administrator on board by the end of 2009 or in very early 2010.

The Notice to Proceed for the road construction project on Bridge and Washington streets was issued on Aug. 24. The contractor had hoped to start on Bridge Street, but delays in removing overhead lines required work be done on Washington Street first. Besides the expected glitches such as running into unmapped utility lines, on Monday, September 21st, the contractor discovered an old underground fuel storage tank. Dealing with this issue will most certainly delay the project beyond the expected completion date of Oct. 13th. City staff are working with the DEQ to determine what will need to be done and, as yet, the ramifications of this discovery are unknown. The city hopes that you will be pleased with the improvements to Bridge (right turn lane onto 99W) and Washington when they are completed and ask for your patience while this project is under way.

The City Council would like to thank the volunteers on the Planning Commission who devoted so much energy and time to the recent revision of the Lafayette Zoning and Development Code. It is this kind of volunteer dedication to the nuts and bolts of city government that often goes unnoticed, but should be honored and appreciated by all city residents. Remember, all appointed and elected officials in Lafayette are unpaid volunteers who are dedicating their time and energies to the city's betterment.

Lafayette City Council

Mayor Chris Heisler (cjheisler@comcast.net), Council President Chris Pagella (candbpagella@yahoo.com) and Councilors Bob Cullen (bcullen@runbox.com), Leah Harper (leahharper@comcast.net), Nick Harris (nrharris23@gmail.com), Dean Rhodes (dean.rhodes@comcast.net) and Michael Roberts (michaeljri@yahoo.com).