
March 22, 2024

To: City Council
From: Mayor Gary Vegar
Re: Weekly Report



Police Chief Hiring Status:

- Mayor Gary Vegar is pleased to announce the City's decision to appoint Interim Police Chief John Markus as the City's newest Chief of Police following a three-week internal interview process. Chief Markus will be sworn in during an Oath of Office ceremony at the Tuesday, April 2nd City Council meeting. A public meet and greet is being scheduled and will be announced at a later date.

Police Department:

- "Coffee with a Cop" is scheduled for Saturday, March 30th from 11 am – 12 pm at Brewminatti. Brewed coffee will be offered to those in attendance, all other menu items will be available for purchase.

Public Works:

- Streets/Parks – Current project/tasks include: sweeping schedule, HMA patching, vegetation spraying, janitorial at all facilities, park restroom preparation for summer, hood cleaning at Community Center and concessions, interior light replacement at Library, monthly safety meeting, and bi-weekly Supervisors meeting.
- Water – Current project/tasks include: city meter replacements, development meter installs, Roza Vista water connection, loading/baking sections of zone 2.5 waterline, meter reading, monthly safety meeting, and bi-weekly Supervisors meeting.
- Wastewater – Current project/tasks: DMR reporting, WWTP maintenance.
- Zone 2.5 Waterline Extension Project – Roza Vista water connection (final), restoration of utility easement, loading/baking of waterline, weekly project meeting.
- Lower Valley Pathway Connection to Merlot Project – advertised for bids.
- Chardonnay/Merlot Sidewalk Improvements Project – advertised for bids.
- Water Dept., Utility Worker vacancies – Candidate interview selections underway.
- On Call Tree Trimming – Proposals reviewed and scored.

Community Development:

- The Building Department has completed a significant amount of Fire & Life Safety inspections for businesses participating in the Sip 'N Stroll event.
- The Building Department has had a large intake of new Single Family Dwelling Unit applications from contractors due to the March 15th adoption of the 2021 WA State Codes to include increased energy code requirements.
- Land Use Applications can now be done online. For more information by click on the following link: <https://ci-prosser-wa.smartgovcommunity.com/Public/Home>

Recreation Department:

- Aquatic Center positions are now open! <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/cityofprosser>
- Spring sports are underway! A total of 657 kids are registered in Flag Football, Soccer Academy and All Cities Volleyball League. All of our parks green space will be busy with lots of games and practices, plus a big thank you to Bethel Church and the Prosser School District for partnering with the City for use of district facilities.
- Huge thank you to several community members for volunteering for our spring programs. 104 parent volunteers and High School students give back to our community by teaching youth Flag Football, Soccer and Volleyball. Thank you!
- Mother and Son Dance registration is now open. The event will take place Saturday, April 20th at KRV Elementary School from 6pm – 8pm. Last day to register is April 15th. For more information, please follow this link: www.cityofprosser.com/events
- Have you seen our Activity Guide yet? The Activity Guide contains information regarding activities happening through June, and is now available digitally at: www.cityofprosser.com/parksandrec. We hope to see you at one of the numerous programs being offer this year!

Irrigation Water

- Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District (SVID) has announced they will begin filling the irrigation canals in the next few weeks. It is expected that irrigation water will be available to Prosser residents the week of April 8th.

City Hall/Police Station Replacement Project Status:

- Following the Benton County Commissioner's regular meeting scheduled on Tuesday, April 2nd, Mayor Vegar and City staff will tour the Court House facility with County Commissioner Michael Alvarez and Administration staff. A meeting to discuss the possibility of shared resources will follow.
- City staff continue to work through the [Background, Site & Criteria Model](#). Findings on property analysis of potential locations will be presented to Council and shared with the public in the weeks to follow. More information regarding the status of the project can be found on the City's website at: [CH/PD Project - City of Prosser, Washington](#)

Staff Training:

- On Thursday, March 21st City Hall staff participated in Active Shooter training hosted by the Prosser School District security team. Thank you Prosser School District for partnering with the City and providing this important training to our staff!