



Falls City Newsletter



"Addressing the needs of the community and planting the Seeds for a secure future."

1. FALLS CITY GETS THE NOD FROM HIGHLY COMPETITIVE RARE PROGRAM!

Out of over 300 communities to apply, Falls City is one of only 30 to be awarded a RARE Participant. The Resource Assistance for Rural Economies is an AmeriCorps program administered through the University of Oregon's Institute for Policy Research and Engagement. On direction from the City Council, your City Hall applied for the RARE program, as well as 2 grants to help fund it. City staff also created work plans, job descriptions, and professional development plans in order to gain approval for the RARE.

The City's RARE Participant, William Sullivan, will join the Falls City team in September of 2019 and work full-time, for 11 months, under the supervision of the City Manager. The City will also host a public "meet and greet," with some food and beverages provided, in September when William arrives.

- **Falls City Awarded \$10k Ford Family Foundation Grant to pay nearly half of the City's cost for the RARE Participant!**

2. VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS AND MEDICS NEEDED!

If you've ever thought it would be cool to be a volunteer Firefighter or Medic, the City of Falls City needs you! As a volunteer Firefighter or Medic in Falls City you'll get training, experience, camaraderie, an opportunity to serve the community, and some limited opportunities to make a few bucks. If you are interested, and can commit to attending regular meetings & responding to calls, give us a call at the number on the bottom of this page!

3. FALLS CITY PRIDE: AUGUST 17-18!

At a packed meeting on July 8, 2019, the Falls City Council overwhelmingly sanctioned the Falls City Pride Event to a bustling round of applause! Already a main stay in Falls City for the last 5 years, official sanctioning of the event makes it the only such event of the kind in Polk County. The move has drawn round praise from local and regional news outlets, surrounding communities, and people from all over the City, County, State, Country, and World!

Activities will include swimming, raffle, lawn games, local vendors, raffle, duck race, cat walk lessons, food, wine, music and dancing, to name just a few. Come join us at 180 Dayton St., the Bread Board, the Boondocks, the Parks, and around town to: celebrate diversity, reject prejudice, and show our detractors that they don't know as much as they think they do about Falls City!

4. PAVING PROJECT COMPLETED ON: 5TH ST., FAIROAKS ST. & BOUNDARY ST.

The City was awarded \$150,000 in roadwork specific grants over the last year and a half. The funds come from Oregon Department of Transportation and are largely earmarked for small cities like ours. To replace an existing street costs 25% more than paving a gravel road, and 50% more than overlaying an existing street (*approximately*). Armed with that information and the City's pavement assessment from

last summer, the Council decided to overlay the above streets. In so doing, the council ensured tax payers got the most improved roadway for the least funds, while also saving taxpayers roughly 50% over the replacement that would have been required if these roads degraded much longer. Finally, all of the roads are in close proximity to the elementary school, and Council wanted to ensure they were doing all that our budget would allow to improve the roads for the safety of kids using the roads near the school.

5. FALLS CITY-POLK CDC TEAM UP FOR \$400K IN HOUSING REHAB GRANTS!

Polk CDC has been providing various types and levels of housing assistance in Polk County since the 1980's. In the 90's a rule change dictated creation of the Polk Regional Collaborative (PRC), of which the City of Falls City has been a member from the start. Each grant, one of the members of the PRC (all the cities in Polk Co., and Polk Co. itself) must serve as lead applicant; every member has done so at least once except Falls City. This will be the first time Falls City has been asked to lead the application for this grant, a sign of the respect our little town is beginning to garner from outside agencies and partners. The result will be approximately \$300k for housing rehabilitation grants, to persons residing anywhere in Polk County, administered by Polk CDC, available in 2020. *Polk CDC has many funding options, including the 2018 version of this grant, available to Falls City Residents at all times. Polk CDC: (503) 831-3173.*

6. REVENUE PROJECT.

The City Council is currently holding monthly work sessions to work on a Revenue project designed to correct an approximately \$150k shortfall of revenues over expenses. So far, the Council has directed the City Manager to work with the City Attorney in drafting a new "Master Utility Right of Way Ordinance" (MUROW) to ensure taxpayers are being reimbursed for use of the right of way by for-profit entities. At present, the City has some agreements, but they do not capture the potential revenue stream due to legal nuances, and the lack of a strong MUROW.

The Council has also directed City Staff to begin researching sewer rates, and rate structures to determine an avenue for bridging the \$50k gap in that program/service. Next month's work session will be held on August 26, 2019 at 6pm in the Community Center. This would be a good one to attend if you attend just one because the City Manager will be painting a picture of the overall financial health of the various funds and programs.

7. PUBLIC WORKS SAVING TAXPAYER \$DOLLARS\$

In accordance with the City's, "Water Master Plan," a leak check project was started and completed in July, 2019, to check for water loss (treated water that doesn't make it to the meters). The project identified several leaks, though Falls City was in better shape than most. The report will be published on the City Website's, "Projects" page upon receipt. Public Works has already jumped in and fixed four of the most significant leaks, and has a couple more to go. In the end, this work will save rate payers a million or more gallons of loss per year!

8. PUBLIC WORKS REPAIRS WATER MAIN BREAK, BOIL NOTICES LIFTED.

On Friday afternoon, 7/19, Pacific Power failed to obtain a Right of Way Encroachment permit and ruptured a water line on 6th St. Public Works and City Administrative Staff responded with boil notices, and immediately going in-work to repair the damage. Upon completion, water samples were taken to the lab for emergency testing, and the all clear was received. By Monday morning, thanks to the hard work and expertise of your Public Works, the water was safe and the boil notices lifted!

COMMUNITY INFO:

FALLS CITY PRIDE:

AUGUST 17-18, 2019, Details above.

FALLS CITY TO UNVEIL NEW FIRE TRUCK:

JULY 31, 2019, 5pm, Falls City Fire Station.
(Preview at Krazy Dayz Parade in Dallas).

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE HAS A NEW VACANCY:

Want to know more about what's going on in town? Have an extra few hours per month? Then submit your interest for the Falls City Public Works Committee at City Hall!

IF YOU HAVE COMMUNITY SERVICE TO COMPLETE, YOU MAY BE ABLE TO GET YOUR HOURS WORKING FOR THE CITY OF FALLS CITY.

Contact City Hall for Details.

SCHEDULED CITY MEETINGS

The Public is welcomed and encouraged to attend.

City Council

August 12, 2019 @ 6:00pm

Parks & Recreation

August 21, 2019 @ 11:00am

Public Works

August 22, 2019 @ 6:00pm

*Note: All meetings are in the Community Center at 320 N. Main St. Falls City, OR 97344, unless otherwise noted.

Did you know there used to be a world class cheese maker in falls city?

Her name was **Fanny Lamberson Branson**, and she is one example of many amazing women who made Falls City such a special place then and now.

We need your stories about women like Fanny.

In 2020 Falls City, and the rest of the US will celebrate the 100th anniversary of Women's suffrage (the right to vote cemented by the 19th amendment to the US Constitution). In commemoration of this special centennial, the City will feature stories and bios of local women related to the right to vote, and general history.

Please submit any story, pictures, documents, etc., to City Hall for possible inclusion in an exhibit or some other feature. See the attached guide for more information. Contact City Hall if you have an idea to feature women's history in 2020!



Woman Suffrage Wagon, National Museum of American History

Places to conduct research:

- Local library and/or historical society
- University archives
- Historic Oregon Newspapers
<https://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/>
- Local League of Women's Voters chapters
<http://lwwv.org/>
- Oregon Historic Sites Database
<http://heritagedata.prd.state.or.us/historic/>
- Oregon Historical Society
<https://ohs.org/research-and-library/>
- Oregon Encyclopedia
<https://oregonencyclopedia.org/>

Types of programming to consider:

- Create a mini-exhibit in your library, city hall, shopping center, or local school
- Hold a history talk at your local library
- Expand a history talk to include a civics discussion about a present day issue
- Host a tour of sites associated with local women
- Recreate an historical event
- Present an award to a local civic organization
- Host an Equalitea- Tea has traditionally been a way for women to socialize and organize. An "equalitea" is a way to educate your community about the suffrage movement and/or honor local women leaders.
- Share social media messages. Consider sharing #2020Centennial, #SuffrageAt100, #RightToVote, #WomenDisobey, #GetRadical, #Vote100, #WomenInPolitics, #HerStory, #WomenVote
- Remember that March is Women's History Month!

Funding Opportunities:

- County Cultural Coalitions- For projects that create, share, document, and develop the county's cultural identity. Learn what's available in your county.
- Oregon Cultural Trust- Funds support access, preservation, creativity, and capacity projects.
- Oregon Museum Grant (due spring 2020)- Funds support Oregon museums in projects related to collections, heritage tourism, and heritage education

and interpretation.

- Oregon Heritage Grant (due fall 2019) - Funds support projects that conserve, develop or interpret Oregon's heritage.
- Travel Oregon Mini Grant- Planning an event? Look into tourism grants.
- Oregon Humanities Responsive Grant- Funds bring people together to explore a timely issue.

Additional Resources:

- Oregon History Resources:
 - Oregon 2020
<http://www.oregonwomenshistory.org/oregon-2020/>
 - Oregon Women's History Interviews
<http://www.oregonwomenshistory.org/interviews/>
 - Oregon Public Broadcasting: The Suffragists
<https://www.opb.org/television/programs/oregonexperience/segment/the-suffragists/>
 - Oregon Encyclopedia
https://oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/woman_suffrage_in_oregon/#.XNMJgGN7lph
- Links to National Resources:
 - 2020 Women's Vote Centennial Toolkit
<https://www.2020centennial.org/>
 - AASLH 19th Amendment Centennial Value Statement
<http://download.aaslh.org/AASLH+19th+Amendment+Centennial+Value+Statement.pdf>
 - Centennial of Women's Suffrage
<http://www.suffragettes2020.com/>
- Research Tips
 - Heritage Bulletin 34: Researching Historically Marginalized Communities
https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/HCD/docs/Heritage_Bulletins/HB34_Researching_Historically_Marginalized_Communities.pdf



Image from Library of Congress